

DATES TO REMEMBER

**February 6:** Heritage Days  
2007 Organizational  
Breakfast, 7:00 a.m.

**February 13, 2007:** NCHS  
Board Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

**March 15:** Annual NCHS  
Soup Lunch

**May 8:** Board Meeting

**June 9:** Pony Express  
Monument Dedication—  
Seneca, 11 a.m.

**June 12:** Annual Meeting

**July 10, 2007:** NCHS  
Organizational Meeting

**October 6-7, 2007:**  
Heritage Days 2007

Heritage Days  
2007

Planning Mtg.

Breakfast —  
at 7:00 a.m.

February 6th at  
museum

Committees bring cost  
estimates for budget

Museum's Historic Structure Report Available for Review

The Historic Structure Report for the Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence was completed on December 31, 2006 and is available for review at the Museum. Copies of the report can be purchased for a printing fee.

The intent of this Historic Structure Report is to provide a detailed analysis of the existing building conditions in order to identify and allow the Historical Society to prioritize current and future preservation efforts. The report includes architectural, structural, mechanical, and geotechnical reviews, as well as

copies of original 1879 drawings, copies of field drawings, photographs, and probable construction costs for identified projects.

Based on the findings of this report, there is a substantial amount of work which could be completed to restore the building and provide building upgrades commensurate with its use as a museum. A key finding is that the deteriorated west/south porch at the Residence is the primary area of preservation concern and this feature is being addressed first.

This study was prepared by Hernly Associ-

ates, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas; DGM Consultants, PA, Overland Park, Kansas; and Hughes Consulting Engineering, Lawrence, Kansas.

Funded in part by a Heritage Trust Fund Grant from the Kansas State Historical Society, the Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. has provided matching funds with assistance from the S.T.E.P. Community Foundation and S.C.T.V., the local Public Access Television Channel.

Review of the report and projected porch drawings and specifications will be at the February 6, 2007 Board Meeting.

NCHS ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2007

The February 13th NCHS Administrative Board Meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with soup and sandwiches served. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting includes reports from Stan Hernly, Consultant; Museum Director Diane Rottinghaus; Curator Lillian

Engelken; Membership chairperson, Dorothy Pearl Murphy; Memorials, Joyce Olberding; Librarian, Mary Steinlage; Website, Ken Stallbaumer; Grant Administrator, DarlAnn Rial; Highway Signs report, Naomi Turner; Facilities, Richard Schmitz; landscaping, Eldon Olberding, and

Finance Chair, Dean Rial. New Business includes the following: the need for "Letters of Support" for Heritage Trust Fund 2007 Grant, Endowment Fund Establishment, additional parking, handicapped ramps, fire extinguishers, display arrangements and Soup Day planning.



## ACQUISITIONS!!!!!!

Axtell REA: Radio Communication Base Station

Marietta Bailey, Topeka: Photographs, Goff Individuals and Places; 1935 hearing aid (Morrell)

Christa Swisher, Seneca: WWII Military Photographs

Carol Kohake, Seneca: hand operated printer with letters

M.A. and Velven York, Seneca: Coal Oil lamps (2); Naval Military Coat

Joyce Olberding, Seneca: Lamp shade for coal oil lamps

Val Schmitz, Seneca: Architectural Display of hospital complex and grand opening program

Herb L. Bontrager, Jr., Manhattan, KS: Photograph of Herb Bontrager, Sr, Sheriff

Mary Steinlage, Kelly: Miniature doll held together by rubber bands, (1934-35)

## Inquiries:

Leona M. Gallion,

Surprise, Arizona  
([gallionl@cox.net](mailto:gallionl@cox.net))

ordered Arlene Feldmann Jauken's book, "The Moccasin Speaks" after reading the website info.

Connie Barnhart,

Havensville, KS is searching for a photos, memorabilia, old records or newspaper articles of the Coal Creek School House. If you have a print, please notify the Nemaha County Historical Society or call Connie at 785-948-3314

Peggy Buehler, Tacoma, WA: Monetary Donation to NCHS and note: *Seneca means a lot to me. The family has many relatives buried in your cemetery and I thoroughly enjoyed my 35+ years of coming to Seneca with Russ to visit our parents. I loved the town and people and I have many nice memories of your great town.*

## New Historical Members:

Harry Leem, Seneca

Glenn and Ruth Rodden, Seneca

Lois S. Raab, Holton

## Renewal:

Mildred E Frances, Holton

## MARCI PENNER BRINGS EXPLORER CLUB TO COUNTY

### Marci Penner and The Explorer Club

toured Nemaha County on their January 17<sup>th</sup> road trip. The group visited the Shoe Tree in Wetmor, the hand-dug well in Seneca, St. Mary's Church in St. Benedict, cemeteries, the Firemen



"explorer" site at the Seneca Public Library meeting room from 5 to 6 p.m. Following the forum in Seneca, the group journeyed to the Corn Crib in Corning for their evening meal and to discover the treasures in the Corning General Store.



Museum, Pony Express Museum, Seneca Main Street District. They shared their perspective of Seneca and Nemaha County as

A group of about 40 rural leaders from communities around the state facilitated by the Kansas Sampler Foundation made many positive suggestions and recommendations, including developing an announced schedule for showing the hand-dug well and special celebrations.

One Explorer filled her cell phone's camera with photos of the well's interior.

Marci Penner, executive director of the Foundation, says the group takes a field trip annually and this year it was to Nemaha County. Explorer tourism is a concept developed by the Kansas Sampler Foundation and initiated from public feedback to the Kansas Sampler Festival, the Kansas Explorers Club and Penner's travels around the state.

Ms. Penner recently went to every incorporated city in Kansas to research for the Kansas Guidebook for Explorers.

Nancy Gafford, RDA Executive Director, expressed appreciation to all the volunteers, community leaders and merchants who worked to make the tour a successful experience.

### Museum Winter Hours

The Historical Museum is normally closed November through April, but due to the preservation project administrative staff will be working at the museum every day, Monday through Saturday this year. If there is no answer at the museum (336-6366), call Anita Heiman at 785-556-4094 or Joyce Olberding at 785-336-3334.



Explorer Club Member Joe Hubbard (above) from Osborne, KS warms his hands at the museum.



**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE**

The annual individual Historical Society Membership fee of \$10.00 and individual Lifetime Membership fee of \$200 became effective on July 1, 2006 and can be paid by sending check to PO Box 41, Seneca, KS 66538.

**Business Membership**

A business membership category is available at an annual cost of \$25.00. The business membership will provide a business listing in the quarterly newsletter and all NCHS worldwide websites.



**CONRAD DROGE FARM**

**Part 3 of 4**

*From KSHS Registry for Historic Places*

*Courtesy of Leslie Droge*

*Continued from November 2006 Pioneer Press*

George Droge helped his folks farm the Lazy D Ranch until 1917, when George was drafted for the army of World War I. Soon Conrad and Sophia Droge retired and moved to Dubois, Nebraska. Another son, Henry Droge, moved back to Kansas from Valley County, Montana to farm the home place.

Henry (Heinrick Ludwig) Droge (1883-1968) was married to Gertrude Beardeau (1888-1974) on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1910. They rented Conrad Droge's Nebraska Farm where they farmed until 1914. Three children were born while living on the Nebraska farm: Emil, Helen and Margaret. The family then moved to Valley County, Montana and homesteaded for three and half years where Clarence (1915) and Leslie (1917) were born. When Leslie was six weeks old, the family moved back to Kansas to farm the home place.

Henry and Gertrude Droge eventually had and raised eleven children.

Growing up on the Lazy D Ranch was a joy for Leslie Droge. It was in the horse and buggy days with dirt and natural sod roads. Everyone used horses for transportation. The Drogues rode a couple of Morgan horses, but never could afford a saddle. The horses were used for pulling the buggy. The family heated rocks and rolled them in a gunnysack and placed them on the floorboards of the buggy to keep their feet warm in the winter when they went to town or church. Heated rocks were also placed in the beds for warmth during cold winter nights. Leslie keenly remembers his Grandpa Conrad Droge sitting on a kitchen stool and smoking a pipe.

In the twenties, the Droge family did all the farming with horses, herd of sixteen work horses. One bottom riding plow was pulled by three horses, and a two bottom riding plow was pulled by four horses. Normally they had one or two sets of good harnesses, and other sets were composed of a collar with harness and tugs attached, no bridle or pull back straps. When pulling a load on the road or going down a hill, the horses would have to run to keep ahead of the load. This was dangerous and several accidents did happen.

During the 1925 – 1940 years, the Droge family made molasses from cane on the Lazy D Ranch. The heads and leaves were cut off the farm-grown cane stalks with a corn knife and taken to the molasses mill that Henry Droge bought to squeeze the juice out of cane stalks. The mill was positioned on top of three heavy hedge posts that were set solid in the ground and the top was about six feet above the ground. A long hedge pole horizontally stuck out sixteen feet and was hitched to a horse which would walk around and around the mill. The cane stocks were started between two rollers which would then squeeze juice out into a ten gallon cream can. When it was full, it would be carried to the vat (a shallow tank three feet wide and ten feet long and one foot deep) under which was a fire. The juice was cooked before the scum was skimmed off the top with a screen. When the juice became thick and sticky like syrup, the molasses was dipped out and put in gallon jugs. The vat would be filled again and another batch would be ready in two or more days. Fifty to seventy-five gallons of molasses were made each year. The Drogues would also

grind their own corn meal and wheat for bread using a horse-powered burr mill.

To feed a family of eleven children, beef and pork would be processed on the ranch each year. The beef would be butchered, skinned, and cut small portions for canning jars. The remaining beef would hang on the back porch so that the family could cut off portions for roasting or grinding. The two to six month old hogs would be killed, dressed, and boiled in a barrel of water. Using a block and tackle, the hog would be lowered into the boiling water until it was scalded enough to scrape all the hair off with a sharp knife. The ham and bacon slabs would be smoked over hickory wood in the back yard smoke house. Salt pork was made by soaking some cuts in a ten-gallon crock filled with salt brine and stored in the basement. A lard press was used to render and press the liquid lard out of the cooked fat cracklings. Head worst, blood worst and sausage were made. The small intestines of the hog were cleaned and filled with raw pork, the casings were tied with string every three or four inches so that they could be cut into short links.

Gertrude Droge raised nearly 300 turkeys each year. The family would have a turkey shoot each fall before Thanksgiving. Advertising would announce the date and time of the shoot, bringing the people of the community with their shot guns. They would shoot clay pigeons with the winner receiving a turkey as prize. The remaining turkeys were sold each year to a produce company. Chickens were raised each year which provided eggs to the Droge family. The roosters were fattened early, at about three pounds, keeping fifty fryers and selling the remaining chickens.

The one-acre peach orchard provided peaches for canning and sold at one dollar per bushel. Mulberries and gooseberries were abundant on the ranch each year. The Droge children would take sheets and blankets to lie under the Mulberry trees when the berries were ripe. They would climb the tress and shake every limb. When they finished they would remove the sticks and bugs that had been shaken into the sheets with the berries. The Droge family would go gooseberry picking and gather enough wild gooseberries to keep the mulberries from spoiling when they were canned. They also picked wild strawberries, wild raspberries and wild choke cherries.

The Drogas always cultivated a big garden of tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage and turnips each year. The potatoes were kept in the root cellar (basement) The cabbage was cut up, salted and weighted down in five and ten gallon crock containers. The turnips were kept under straw piles on the ground, which kept them from freezing.

The Henry Droge family planted corn, selected the best ears from the corn crib and hand shelled the ears to be used for seed. Corn was only worth about fifty cents per bushel. During the five-year drought in the early thirties, the family planted corn without raising any ears, just small stocks. The neighbors worked together and made corn-cutting three wheeled carts that fit between the rows and were pulled with one horse between the two rows. It had a slanted knife on the front of each side, and about four to five inches above the ground. Two men set on a bench on the cart and grabbed the corn stalks as they were cut down by the horse and riders going through the field. Using three of these rigs, the families could cut a lot of corn in one day. Loose corn stalks would be picked up and loaded onto a flat bed hay rack and hauled to a silage cutter. The corn was unloaded by hand and the silage cutter would blow it into a silo or bunker silo.

Leslie started to the first grade at the Prairie Grove School (District #65), one mile west of the Lazy D Ranch, in 1924. One teacher, Ethel Warner, taught all eight grades of forty students. The Droge children usually walked to school, but Leslie rode a horse to school one day because he was late from checking his traps along the creek into Nebraska. Leslie and his brother, Clarence, set traps for fur animals, skinned them and stretched the skin for a period of time. They sold the skins or pelts to the fur traders. They caught coyote, coon, mink, weasel, civet cat, skunk, possum, fox, muskrats, etc. Since the family milked fourteen to sixteen cows each morning and night, Leslie and Clarence took turns milking and checking traps.

Clarence and Leslie attended Dubois High School in the early thirties, participating in sports. Leslie attended Seneca High School for his senior year of high school because the Dubois, Nebraska school began to charge tuition.

To Be Continued - Pioneer Press MAY 2007



## Preservation of Documents and Photographs Continues

Nine months into the eighteen month "Settling Nemaha County" Document and Photograph Preservation Project funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Heritage Grant 2006, volunteers have inventoried, indexed cataloged and bar-coded 3,990 documents and photographs.

An archive storage closet has been built, installed and filled with 170 Archive Boxes of photographs and documents for ready access by tourists and researchers.

Approximately 920 genealogy archives and maps have been photographed, cataloged and indexed for ready access in the Genealogy Research Area in the first floor cells.

Major tasks remain during the next nine months, but the project has already tallied \$8,838.19 expense in archival supplies, \$3,210.35 for a storage closet, \$7,183 for contract labor (718.30 hours); and matching funds of \$24,845 which are 2,484.50 volunteer hours.



NCHS President Anita Heiman and Ken Stallbaumer work with documents and photographs in the archive storage closet.

## Copies of Strathman Photography Negatives Available



More than 4,000 of the Strathman Photography negatives from 1953-1967 have been sorted, indexed, cataloged, and placed in acid free sleeves and boxes. Ken Stallbaumer has built a light box (shown at the left) to make prints of any Strathman negative. NCHS will make copies for a fee. To place an order for available copies, call the museum (785-336-6366), write to PO Box 41, Seneca, KS 66538 or email [nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com).

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## Core Committee Appointed for Heritage Days 2007

The second planning meeting for Heritage Days 2007 was held on December 5, 2006 at the Nemaha County Museum. After serving breakfast, Anita Heiman, NCHS President, opened the meeting with nineteen volunteers in attendance.

The financial report and minutes of the October 17<sup>th</sup>

Heritage Days 2006 evaluation meeting were distributed.

The group generally approved of the theme, "Treasures Of Our Past" for the October 6 and 7, 2007 event.

After discussion of various needs and responsibilities, the following committee chairmen were appointed:

Costumes – Diane Rottinghaus and Joyce Olberding; Promotion and Publicity – Ken Stallbaumer; Entertainment – Anita Heiman; Interactive Workshops – Mark Heiman and Cindy McWilliams; Finance – Dean Rial and Naomi Turner; Displays: Photography Show – Toby Lear, Car Show – Bill Rettelle, Quilt Show – Teresa Jones; Facilities –



Richard Schmitz; Food – Lillian Engelken; Activities – Dennis Droge and Doug Berkley; Re-enactors – Mary Jane Fleming; Tour Booth – Sharon Steinlage; Artisans – McCoys; Vendors – Kathy Copeland and Cindy McWilliams; Records – Darl Ann Rial; Contests – David Key and Nancy Gafford; Victorian Tea – Sally Lauer and Mary Ann York.



# IN MEMORY

## "Given in Memory of Friends of Nemaha County Historical Museum"

Donations have been given in memory of these friends who recently passed on. Their names will be added to the NCHS Memorial Plaque displayed in the Museum's Office.

<p><b>Keith D. Strathman</b></p> <p><b>1979–2007</b></p> 	<p>IN MEMORY OF SPECIAL FRIENDS OF NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.</p>	<p><b>Nora F. Rottinghaus</b></p> <p><b>1907–2007</b></p> 	<p>Locally Owned Serving All Faiths since 1901 Pre-need Funeral Plans &amp; Monuments</p> <p><b>Lauer Funeral Home</b> Call For An Appointment: <b>785-336-2101</b> Toll Free: 1-888-507-5589 Located at 212 South 4th Street, Seneca, KS 66538 Website: <a href="http://www.lauerfuneralhome.com/">www.lauerfuneralhome.com/</a></p>
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### NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

113 North 6th  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
Museum Email: [nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com)  
Editor Email: [dsrial@carsoncomm.com](mailto:dsrial@carsoncomm.com)

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# PIONEER PRESS

May—July, 2007



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**May 8, 2007:** NCHS  
Board Meeting: 6:30 pm

**June 9, 2007:** Pony Ex-  
press Monument Dedi-  
cation—Seneca, 11 a.m.

**June 11, 2007:** Pony  
Express Re-Ride

**June 12, 2007:** Heritage  
Days 2007 Planning Mtg.  
7:30 a.m., breakfast

**June 12, 2007:** NCHS  
Annual Meeting ; 7 p.m.

**July 10, 2007:** NCHS  
Organizational Meeting

**September 15-17, 2007:**  
Hwy. 36 Treasure Hunt

**October 6-7, 2007:**  
Heritage Days 2007

**November 7-9, 2007:**  
KMA Conference,

**NCHS**

**Board Meeting**

**May 8, 2007**

**Dinner at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

**Burger Annex I**

## Local Historical-Preservationist Ray Huninghake Passes

Former Historical Society Board member, Raymond A. "Ray" Huninghake, 67, died suddenly Tuesday night, March 20, 2007, at Nemaha Valley Community Hospital.

Ray was a member of the Nemaha County Historical Society during the years that the Burger Annexes were built.

He initiated the research for placing the Stein House on the Kansas Registry of Historic Places and the Nemaha County Jail and Sher-

iff's Residence on the National Registry of Historic Places. He also served for several years on the Glacier Hills Council, for the preservation of Nemaha County historical sites. He was instrumental in the Marion Hall Restoration Project.

Ray's encouragement and interest provided the momentum for placing seven Nemaha County sites on the National Historical Registry.

He was born in Axtell on July 23, 1939, the son of Herman and Anne Osterhaus

Huninghake. He attended St. Mary's School at St. Benedict and later served his country in the military.

On November 22, 1962, he married Rosann Deters in Baileyville.

He was a kind, strong-willed man who had the courage to stand up for what he believed. He took pleasure in life and enjoyed traveling.

Ray is survived by his wife Rosann of the home; his daughter Barbara Huninghake of Seneca; a brother Leonard of Baileyville and many friends who appreciated his preservation efforts.



## SENECA HAND-DUG WELL RECEIVES LISTING ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The Nemaha County Historical Society has been notified by the Kansas State Historical Society that the Seneca Hand-Dug Water Well was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 15, 2007.

The National Register is the country's official list of historically significant properties and Kansans can feel proud to have a large and growing representation of these tangible links to the past.

Listing of this property provides recognition of Seneca's historic

importance and assures protective review of any project that might adversely affect the character of this historic property. This status also qualifies the Seneca hand-dug well for the Heritage Trust Fund grant program.

The Old City Hand Dug Well in the Seneca City Park is the last visible sign of Seneca, Kansas's original 1895 water system.

The 65 foot deep by 34 feet wide, rock/brick-lined well may be the widest and second deepest hand-dug well in Kansas.

The three foot wide rock walls are laid in four foot high sections, constructed from ground level downward.



1895—Hand Dug Well



**PONY EXPRESS MONUMENT DEDICATION—  
SENECA 4TH & MAIN STREET,  
11:00 A.M. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007**

**TOURISM WEBSITE  
LAUNCHED**

Marshall County Historical Society has launched a tourism website, "Explore Pony Express Country". Expanded to include additional interests such as train watching, hunting and visits to cemeteries and stone bridges, the site can be accessed at [www.marshallcoks.com](http://www.marshallcoks.com).

Maps are available for downloading. Information is available from Beth Skinner, [skinner@bluevalley.net](mailto:skinner@bluevalley.net).

**HOLLENBERG STATION  
TO CELEBRATE 150  
YEARS**

The Hollenberg Station will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of G.H. Hollenberg's arrival and construction of a log cabin on the State Historic site on August 26, 2007.

This event will also feature the Annual Pony Express Festival supported by the Kansas State Historical Society and many volunteers.

**VORHES PROVIDES PRO-  
FESSIONAL DIRECTION**

John Vorhes, a former Seneca resident and retired art director and exhibit designer, has offered to provide professional direction for displays and exhibits to the Nemaha County Historical Museum during his visit on May 13-15th.

Mr. Vorhes, Bethesda, Maryland, will provide the services free of charge with the NCHS providing supplies and labor for his project for a Main Street themed display.

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Historical:**

James & Kathy Copeland,  
Galen & Cindy McWilliams  
Christa Switzer,  
Helen Lierz, Seneca

Donald and Mary Jo Berges;  
Manhattan, KS.

**Business Membership:**

Buggy Days, Jolene  
Holthaus, 509 Main,  
Seneca, KS  
66538



**OUT-OF-TOWN VISITERS**

Ron and Shirley Thomley, Red Wing, MN; Shirley was a relative of Monroe Bailey. NCHS provided information from Marion Township Hall research documenting Monroe's life and legend.

Loy Addington, Makanda, IL and Ruth Holland, Carbondale, Ill; Pipeline Contractors researching historical sites along pipeline.

Douglas Doss and Wilson Ingram, Topeka; Hospital Vendors who toured the museum.

Eugene Visser Family Reunion, Goff; Toured the museum on April 10<sup>th</sup> and the city hand-dug well on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Julie Scott, Casa Grande, AZ; Visited the museum in search of documentation of her ancestor, blacksmith Levi Hensel. She found Levi Hensel information on the NCHS website.

**INQUIRIES BY LETTER-TELEPHONE-E-MAILS**

Jamine N. Manolis, Carmichael, CA ([Boford87@yahoo.com](mailto:Boford87@yahoo.com)) requesting records of her 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grandparents, Daniel W. Stowell and Rose Ellen Gittings, who were married in 1889 in Nemaha County.

The Chamber of Commerce, Sabetha requested a map of Capicoma Cemetery.

Kay Buckminster, Gentry, AR is researching Anna Lotter who died 1922 in Seneca, was born in

Leskau, Austria in 1838 and married Joseph Lotter in 1862. [kk@ipa.net](mailto:kk@ipa.net)

Needed: Information on the Harris Cemetery in Corning, Kansas, Harrison Township. [cooley@sunflower.com](mailto:cooley@sunflower.com) is also looking for pictures of the School District #42 school from which her mother graduated in 1933.

Connie Barnhart; Researching early day rural schools.

Norman Fletcher, 1102 NW End Blvd., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

I have been collecting wooden money for more than 10 years and enjoy the hobby very much. There was a wooden nickel issued in your town that I would like to add to my Kansas collection.

Seneca: no date-Kansas Cent. 5 Cents; Black, Fort Markley

Centralia - 1966- Cent. 5 Cents



Nancy Imholte, for donating five pounds of coffee and two dozen Styrofoam cups to the museum.

Berline Trickle, for donating two dozen Styrofoam cups and a dozen plastic cups to the museum.

Shelton Jones, President of Seneca Downtown Impact, Inc. for donation to purchase coffee.

**BUGGY DAYS**



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Seneca Historic  
Main Street District

Karen L. Wolff, Dean Emerita School of Music, Theatre and Dance, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI 48109

[klwolff@umich.edu](mailto:klwolff@umich.edu)

I have seen the Gilford Hotel in Seneca mentioned in your publication. I believe that my g-g-g grandparents named Silas C. and Marietta Briggs managed the hotel for a time shortly after it was built. The Briggs' daughter Bertha md. James Bontrager. Their daughter Laura Bontrager Bennett was my great grandmother.

I am writing a book based partly on my grandmother's recollections of her childhood in Nemaha County. Any information would be helpful.



## KANSAS HUMANITIES GRANT UPDATE

### Administrator Training

Dean and DarlAnn Rial, Administrators of the Kansas Humanities Grant, "Settling Nemaha County" attended a Pastime Software Training in Weatherford, TX and visited mentor Pioneer-Krier Museum in Ashland, KS during April.

The administrators hope to complete the input of documents and photos, standardize the Past Perfect software program and close out the grant as scheduled by late October.

### Strathman Negatives

Diane Rottinghaus finished cataloging the Strathman Negatives on March 14, 2007. Lillian Engelken also helped inventory and mark 7,490 individual acid-free photo sleeves. NCHS has over 2100 negatives from 1959-1975 accessioned in 56 acid free boxes.

### Marriage Affidavits:

Lois Visser, Lillian Engelken and Naomi Turner are cataloging the marriage affidavits at home preparatory for input into the computer.

### Website Listing

When the marriage affidavits are completed, and with Board approval, Ken Stallbaumer, photograph archivist, plans to list the marriage affidavits and Strathman negatives on the NCHS web-site in ten year increments.

The link will be:

[http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/nchs/people\\_search/](http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/nchs/people_search/)

*This project is partly funded by the Kansas Humanities Council.*

### Jackson County Historical Society

Final two quilt displays at the Roebke Memorial Museum, 216 New York Ave., Holton:

May 5 – June 30:

Holton Sesquicentennial Quilts

September 8 – October 28:

Millennium Madness – Contemporary Quilts.

Hours:

Sat: 10:00 a.m. – noon

Sundays: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

## MUSEUM HAPPENINGS



### Soup Day:

The Free-Will Offering provided \$1,090.00 at the annual fund-

raiser Soup Day on March 15, 2007.

NCHS expresses appreciation to the overwhelming community support, Director Diane Rottinghaus and all the volunteers who made a successful event.

### Pony Express Re-ride Monday, June 11th.

The Pony Express Museum will host a BBQ dinner, with baked beans, coleslaw and drink for a free will donation. The KMZA Radio will provide a live remote and the museum will give out prizes. Teresa Rettele's dancers will have three performances at 15 minutes intervals.

The riders will be coming through Seneca for the exchange at approximately 8:30-9:00 p.m.

### Virtual Exhibit:

Millie Stallbaumer's \$1000 Memorial Fund has been designated to purchase a digital video camera, microphone, video and editing equipment for virtual touring of the museum for those who could not climb the stairs. The package also provided a second computer for a total price of \$1060.

The set-ups will provide two possibilities for touring the museum: virtual exhibits on the computer screen and video tours on the current television screen.

### Edward Jones

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Mary Ellen Russell

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## Downtown Impact, Inc. Organization Partners With Historical Societies

### The Seneca Downtown Impact, Inc.

A group of individuals representing businesses both in the downtown and surrounding areas has created a not-for-profit organization for the purpose of supporting and managing the improvement of the Central Business District by giving an effective framework for revitalization efforts to the historical Main Street area.

The group has been meeting weekly at the NCHS Burger Annex I to organize support for the heritage of Seneca's Historical image. The group plans to make a successful application for selection to the Kansas Main Street program and has established and promoted a calendar of events in Seneca and surrounding areas.

Merchants are also making costumes to be active partners with the Nemaha County

Historical Society and the Pony Express Preservation Society for a two-day Heritage Days weekend on October 6th & 7th.

Committees report forty (40) vendors and workshops scheduled for the Heritage Days weekend. Plans are developing for continual stage entertainment, games and contests for all ages. Drama, photography and quilt displays, the Library Book Fair and tours of the Hand-dug well are also listed.

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE NOW!

The annual individual Historical Society Membership fee of \$10.00 is due July 31, 2007. An individual Lifetime Membership fee of \$200 or the annual individual membership can be paid by sending check to Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc., PO Box 41, Seneca, KS 66538.

### Business Membership

A business membership category is available at an annual cost of \$25.00. The business membership will provide a business listing in the quarterly newsletter and all NCHS worldwide web-sites.

## IN MEMORY

"Given in Memory of Friends of Nemaha County Historical Museum"

Donations have been given in memory of these three friends who recently passed on. Their names have been added to the NCHS Memorial Plaque displayed in the Museum's Sheriff's Office.

**Ariel Esslinger**

**1991-2007**



**Robert H. Schulte**

**1934-2007**



**Steven J. Wilhelm**

**1956-2007**



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**NEMAHA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

113 North 6th  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
Museum Email: [nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com)  
Editor Email: [dsrial@carsoncomm.com](mailto:dsrial@carsoncomm.com)

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about thirty-five years, buying about two hundred calves each year to feed and sell until they retired in 1977.

In 1957, he bought section nine for fifty dollars per acre. In 1966, he bought a place south of the ranch for sixty six dollars per acre, but reaped the crop that was on it. Leslie tore down the old school house (The Roger's School) on the new property and built a two car garage on Lazy D Ranch with the recycled lumber. Lola and Leslie took out all the old fences, made grass waterways, and terraced all the land that was cultivated. In 1984, Leslie put tile in waterways for moving the water underground and down the hill in place of grassed waterways. Leslie built nine ponds for watering the cattle, cleared dilapidated buildings and built the silo. Improvements were added to the house and barn. Leslie helped organize a Prairie Grove School alumni group which until recently met annually. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Prairie Grove School house on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Lola and Leslie had five children, who continued the Droge tradition of growing up on the Lazy D Ranch. Lola and Leslie have been active in local and state organizations. Leslie served over fifteen years in the active Army reserves. He was elected in the fall of 1964 to the Kansas State Senate and served three four-year terms. Leslie Droge continues to work for preservation of the historic buildings and sites within Nemaha County. He has a passion for saving the history of the Kansas German immigrants, especially the Droge family traditions, for future generations.

*Editor's Note: The stone house and barn of the Lazy D Ranch are unique and retain the architectural integrity of the original property. The buildings are representative of the rural Northeast Kansas German settlements of 1800's - 1900's. The Germans who came from North Germany used a method of building called "fachwerk", a method that didn't use much timber. Most of them had come from a part of Europe where there was considerable warfare over the years, fire, and extensive cultivation. Timber was actually in short supply. Obviously building an*

*all wood house was an expensive undertaking. Most people didn't live in or build all wood houses. They built "fachwerk" which utilized wood for the framework or the skeleton of the building, and used another material such as stone for the rest of the wall to make it solid. This type of architecture and construction is found in the rock house and barn on the Lazy D Ranch.*

## The Bancroft Preservation Association

(Affiliate of Nemaha County Historical Society)



Invites the Public to  
A "Strawberry Gathering"  
Two O'clock, Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at the  
Bancroft Church  
Singing, Special Music, Good Conversation and  
Good Food

The Bancroft Museum will re-open on the  
Weekend of May 26, 27, 28, 2007  
Open each day from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Ilah Rose and Dale Askren will lead the group in singing old-time songs. Following the program, there'll be strawberry desserts as the Association commemorates the First "Strawberry Festival" held in June, 1901.

More information: e-mail:  
[maryjl@biltmoretechnology.com](mailto:maryjl@biltmoretechnology.com) or  
Go to website <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/museums>

## Help Select the Eight (8) Wonders of Kansas

The Kansas Sampler Foundation is launching a campaign and wants the public to help decide the eight wonders of Kansas. Marci Penner, Foundation Director, says they are looking for the top overall attractions in the state. The criteria for nominations require that "the wonder" be publicly accessible, regularly open to the public, non-franchise, has a chance to be around for awhile and is not an event.

Nominations can be sent to Eight Wonders of Kansas, 978 Arapaho Road, Inman, KS, 67546 or email to [8wonders@kansassampler.org](mailto:8wonders@kansassampler.org). Public nominations will be accepted through May 6, 2007.



## CONRAD DROGE FARM

### Part 4 of 4

*From KSHS Registry for Historic Places  
Courtesy of Leslie Droge: "The Lazy D Ranch"  
Continued from November 2006 Pioneer Press*

Teenagers Clarence and Leslie Droge would cut trees down with a two man cross saw, trim the limbs off with axes, drag to a pile with a horse, then cut it in ten or fifteen feet lengths. They made several piles each year for three years to sell the next year since it took that long for the wood to dry. Leslie attended Seneca High School for his senior year of high school because the Dubois Nebraska school began to charge tuition. The Seneca High School paid Leslie to drive to the Griffith filling station where they caught a Seneca High School Bus each school morning. Leslie participated in basketball and track. The remaining Droge children attended the Prairie Grove School and graduated from Seneca High School.

After high school graduation, Leslie Droge worked for a cousin in the summer and into the fall. After corn harvest, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) where he worked for thirty dollars a month. Leslie received five dollars per month which covered food, clothing, and housing and the rest went to his parents. Due to the extreme hard time in the thirties, President Roosevelt started the CCC to put young men to work, building dams, terraces, cutting fire wood, etc. Leslie was assigned to Company 2735

near Kelly, Kansas which was building the Nemaha County Lake Dam.

In August of 1937, Leslie Droge enrolled at Kansas State University and ROTC and graduated in 1941 with a Bachelor of Science degree. While at Kansas State, Leslie met his future wife, Lola Hubbard of Leoti, Kansas, at a young people's gathering at the Presbyterian Church in downtown Manhattan. They were married three years later on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1941. Lola was brought up in a family of eleven children and accepted that there was no money for a honeymoon. They set up housekeeping in an apartment in Manhattan until graduation when Leslie was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and reported to the 63<sup>rd</sup> infantry 6<sup>th</sup> Division at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. His orders were dated 24 June, 1941.

When Leslie Droge returned from Japan after World War II, in December 1945, he and Lola, stayed with his parents on the Lazy D Ranch for a couple of months. During that time, Leslie applied for and was offered a coaching job at Wichita East High School, but before he accepted the position, his father Henry offered to sell him the Lazy D Ranch for fifty dollars per acre. Since Leslie Droge had a passion for farming and restoration of the historic buildings on the ranch, he decided to decline the coaching job. He accepted his father's offer. Henry and Gertrude Droge bought a house in Seneca, Kansas and lived there until they passed away.

Leslie farmed the 130-acre ranch and leased a second section of land. He bought 118 head of white face calves for twelve cents per pound for steers and eleven cents per pound for the heifers. He fed the cattle for one year and then sold them for twenty five cents per pound for the heifers and twenty six cents for the steers. He bought ten sows and one hundred chickens to raise and sell, but the hog and chicken ventures were unsuccessful. Instead, Leslie and Lola concentrated on the cattle business for



**Heritage Days Planning Meeting Minutes**  
**April 10, 2007, 7:30 a.m.**  
**Nemaha County Historical Museum, Annex I**

After a breakfast of biscuits and gravy, juice and coffee provided by Anita Heiman and Mary Jane Fleming, Anita Heiman, NCHS President, opened the meeting with eighteen core staff in attendance. The minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup> Heritage Days Planning meeting were read by Mary Jane Fleming acting secretary in the absence of the regular secretary DarlAnn Rial.

**Vendors:** Cindy McWilliams and Kathy Copeland reported that 29 vendors have definitely committed and another 41 vendors were interested. Cindy stated that 10 vendors needed electricity and perhaps more. Security, tables, chairs and tents and location of vendors were discussed and delegated to Dennis Droge and Richard Schmitz to address with their committee. Post cards have been sent to vendors, chambers, historical societies and local motels. Post cards have been handed out at Seneca events and sent to expo in Manhattan. Some discussion was held concerning hospitality bags to be given to the vendors. Heidi from KMZA will be doing community events advertising and will interview someone or several people in the days leading up to the event.

**Entertainment:** The stage has been located and is presently located and plans are being made to bring it back to Seneca for Heritage Days. Entertainment will run all weekend on stage. A Funz Jumpz Moon walk, obstacle course, bungee jump is scheduled for the weekend.

**Advertising:** Linda Honeyman representing the Seneca Downtown Impact, Inc. said she could help advertise our events. She said Barb Finningan has a web-site to place our calendar of events etc. The Impact Group will be working with the costumed merchants to help promote Heritage Days.

**Events:** Dennis Droge reported that the "Chili Cook Off" event has been moved to the weekend of Heritage Days. Also the Fire Museum will be open parts of the weekend. A post card of the Fire Museum is in the progress so it too can be added to the hospitality baskets. Toby Lear, reported on photography displays. Letters are being sent out to the schools for their participation. The quilt show, cake walk, Library Book Sale and Barnyard Bingo are scheduled. Sally Lauer is planning to have a Victorian tea on Sunday afternoon.

**Drama:** The Pony Express Rider enactment is still in the planning stage but it workable. This will include both the mochila exchange and a Johnny Frye segment. Photos in the jails of the both Pony Express and NCHS Museum is planned.

**Contests:** Bale decorating contest is being coordinated by David Key for guidelines from fair that can be modified. Greg Hulsing volunteered an area on Hwy 36 for displays.

Mary Jane Fleming reported that Pony Express will serve a free will biscuit and gravy breakfast on Saturday Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. Photos in the jail and saloon will be made available. Costumes and/or cuts will be available. Barnyard Bingo chances will be sold. The Pony Express Riders will be available both days to answer questions as well as tours at the museum. Buggy rides between both museums will be held both days. Discussion was held about a barbershop group singing through downtown on both days. The music departments of both area schools have been contacted for participation.

The next planning meeting will be at 7:30 a.m. at NCHS on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Jane Fleming, acting secretary

Those attending the meeting: Jolene Holthaus, Lillian Engelken, Trish Engelken, Cindy McWilliams, Kathy Copeland, Dennis Droge, Richard Schmitz, Linda Honeyman, Nancy Gafford, Annie Haverkamp, Anita Heiman, Harry Leemi, Toby Lear, Bryon Lear, Shirley Heideman, Mary Jane Fleming, Diane Rottinghaus and Kenny Stallbaumer



[nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com)  
785-336-6366

## Nemaha County's Historical Festival Treasures of The Past



### Information:

Anita: 785-556-4094

Mary Jane: 785-336-2285

Tour the widest and second deepest  
hand-dug well in Kansas –  
Built in 1895

**Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7, 2007**

Visit Seneca's Historic Main Street District – Entertainment – Pony Express

Ride Drama – Contests – Food – Games –

Historic Quilts, Cars, Toys, Photography On Display

**Seneca, Nemaha County, Kansas**

**Nemaha County Historical Society** Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2007-2008 Registration Form

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

E-Mail: [nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H)	\$10.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society <u>with</u> Genealogy Society membership (HG)	\$15.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (L)	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership (B)	\$25.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution (Memorial or Recognition of _____)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____	_____
Number of Memberships: _____	Total Enclosed: _____
New _____ Renewal _____	

*Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.*



# PIONEER PRESS

August-October, 2007



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**August 14, 2007:** Board Meeting; 7:00 p.m.

**September 15-17, 2007:** Hwy. 36 Treasure Hunt

**October 6-7, 2007:** Heritage Days 2007

September 8 – October 28:  
Millennium Madness –  
Contemporary Quilts.  
Jackson County Historical  
Society, Roebke Memorial  
Museum, 216  
New York Ave., Hol-  
ton

**November 7-9, 2007:**  
KMA Conference,  
Emporia

**November 13, 2007:**  
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

**February 12, 2008:**  
Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

**March 13, 2008:** Soup  
Day

**May 13, 2008:** Board  
Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**June 10, 2008:** Annual  
Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**July 8, 2008:** 7:00 p.m.  
Re-organizational Mtg.

**October 4 & 5, 2008:**

Vote in the Eight Won-  
ders of Kansas Contest  
Write-978 Arapaho  
Road, Inman, KS  
67546 or email:

8wonders@kansassample  
r.org

## Vorhes Display Highlights Seneca Main Street Selection

The "Main Street" display cre-  
ated at the Nemaha County His-  
torical museum by John Vor-  
hes, Bethesda, Maryland, re-  
tired display artist, was a fea-  
tured attraction at the Seneca  
Main Street Celebration held at  
the Seneca Library on July 19  
and 20, 2007.

The twelve paneled display fo-  
cuses on the early development  
of Nemaha County and Seneca  
from the late 1800's with early  
maps and photographs.

The first panel illustrate Se-  
neca's Main Street district with  
a 28 inch x 22 inch photograph  
of the First National Bank Build-  
ing and current photos.

Panel 2 is entitled "The Prairie"  
and displays photographs of  
early Nemaha County land-  
scape.

Panel 3 is entitled "Go West"  
and contains photographs of  
the Pony Express Riders,  
Smith Hotel, early day black-  
smith. Panel 4 is "The City  
Plan" and reveals the framed  
city plat map and early day  
paving stones which remain  
in the brick lined streets.

Panel 5, Wheels and Wings, is  
photos of the Seneca Depot,  
road map, round house,  
Buser's Ford dealership and  
an airplane. Panel 6 depicts  
Good Times with photos of  
the Opera House, City Hall,  
Harsh Drug, Shorty's café, the  
peacock car and fair parade.  
Mr. Panel 7 is a photo collec-  
tion of early troubles in Se-

neca: floods, fires, snow,  
tornados, train wreck and  
building collapse. Panel 8  
reveals changes to Main  
Street and Panel 9 provides  
picturesque preservation  
efforts, Panel 10 reveal  
"possibilities" for future  
plans which dove-tail with  
the Seneca Downtown Im-  
pact's application for the  
Kansas Main Street status.  
Panel 11 lists the names of  
the leadership efforts and  
Panel 12 lists the support-  
ers and donors.

Seneca was accepted as  
one of twenty-four Kansas  
Main Street communities on  
July 3, 2007.

### Pony Express Museum Awarded HTF Grant

The Pony Express Museum,  
a part of the Seneca Main  
Street Historic District, has  
been awarded a \$36,448  
grant from the 2007 Heritage  
Trust Fund. The funds will  
be used to hire an archi-  
tect/consultant to prepare a  
long-range preservation plan  
for the building and restore  
storefront at 327 Main.

Nancy Gafford, organiza-  
tion's treasurer, will serve as  
administrator for the grant.

### Hwy 36 Treasure Hunt Set For September 14-16

The Nemaha County Histori-  
cal Society will participate in  
the second annual shopping  
spree along the 400 mile  
stretch of Highway 36 on Sep-  
tember 14th and 15th. Lo-  
cated at the New Hope Baptist  
Church parking area west of  
Seneca, the Historical Society  
will sell de-accessioned items  
and flea market items from 8  
a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Friday

### New Activities At Heritage Days 2007

Circle October 6 & 7,  
2007! Over 50 new activi-  
ties, booths, displays and  
contests have been added  
to this year's two-day  
Nemaha County Heritage  
Festival.

All day entertainment will  
be provided on stage;  
displays and activities at  
three museums and li-  
brary. Shopping down-  
town and at heritage  
booths is planned for  
both days.

## SENECA GRADE SCHOOL TIME CAPSULE DONATED TO NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The USD 442 Board donated the Time Capsule from the Nemaha Valley Grade School cornerstone to the Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

The Copper Time Capsule and bronze plate listing date of construction as 1938 made by J. Kill Plumbing has been accessioned with contents of time capsule and preserved under glass.

Displayed in the Trophy case of the School Room on the second floor of the Jail and Sheriff's Residence, the archives have been preserved in acid free protectors.

The contents of the time capsule includes the History of the City of Seneca by Mayor Jack Houston and City Clerk Andy Huerter, Statement of the City of Seneca's status in 1937, lists of faculty & members of 1938 Seneca Jr. and High School Classes, Senior and Junior Band, Grade School classes, Seneca Chamber of Commerce, American Legion Earle W. Taylor Post, Rotary Club, Federal Officers, letters from the State of Kansas Department of Education, State Superintendent W. T. Markham and Kansas Governor Walter A. Huxman, a

handwritten history of the Nemaha Valley Schools by Nellie Young, a letter from USD 422 Superintendent J. E. Bowers, letterhead, business card and photo from the Contractor Oscar Almquist & Sons Co., Architect Walter Earl Glover and P.W.A. Engineer Inspector, 1938 booklet from the Seneca Woman's Club, 1938 Firemen's Banquet Booklet, City of Seneca Light and Water Dept. Meter Reading Card, "Placing of the Cornerstone", letters from the Board of Education of the City of Seneca and Custodian Henry L. Carpenter, copies of 1938 Seneca Times and The Courier-Tribune.

### NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERS

Christa Swisher, Seneca, KS (correction)

Claude & Betty Rieschick, Soldier, KS

Carol and Jim Kohake, Seneca, KS

Roger and Bonnie Huerter, Leawood, KS

Esther Proffitt, Rita J. Floersch, Jan Bergman, Mary Steinlage, Berline Trickel, Seneca, KS

Joseph Ford, Tigard, OR

Earl Hoffman, Los Alamos, NM

Frank Lindemuth, Seneca, KS (courtesy)

Donald Holthaus, Sunnyvale, CA

Richard Godbout, Tuscola, TX

Sandra C. Konzen, Marblehead, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Leems, Seneca, KS

Marietta R. Bailey, Topeka, KS

Naomi Turner, Seneca, KS

Lucille Lierz Seneca, KS

Mary Ann and Velven York, Seneca, KS

Theresa and John Hutfles, Seneca, KS

Diane Rottinghaus, Seneca, KS

Roderick Becker, KC, MO

Eldon Olberding, Seneca, KS

Lillian and Clarence Engelken, Seneca, KS

Bess Oatman, Lakeview, Ohio

Kimberly Baker, Topeka, KS

### INQUIRIES BY LETTER-TELEPHONE-E-MAILS

Diana Smith, Eagle, ID  
[divafox@juno.com](mailto:divafox@juno.com)

Searching for the grave or any other information regarding Mary Ann Stone. She was listed as 74 years old in 1885 Richmond, Nemaha, Kansas census, living with her son, Marion Stone and his wife Emma and their children. She died in Richmond or Mitchell. I would appreciate anything you may have on this family.

Jay Wilks Cowan, Phoenix  
[jcowan@cox.net](mailto:jcowan@cox.net)

I'm trying to find my Great Grand Father's grave near Sabetha. His name is Joseph R. Wilks. His son, my Grand Father, Charles W. Wilks was found in the 1900 Census in Nemaha County Kansas, Township of Rock Creek. I'm hoping you can help me with directions to the cemeteries.

Mona Campbell [jailmuseum@cripple-creek.co.us](mailto:jailmuseum@cripple-creek.co.us)

I was recently hired by the City of Cripple Creek, Colorado to facilitate completion and management of the "Outlaws, Lawmen & Jail Museum" to be housed in a historic Pauly Jail completed in 1902. We are trying to locate a sample or photo of an original hammock used by prisoners in the cells.



**Bancroft Depot Museum**

OPEN Sundays 2-4 through  
September

BANCROFT PRESERVES  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

In December 2006, Bancroft Preservation Association decided not to seek placement of the Community Church on the Registry of Historical Places.

Since that time several individuals have contacted Bancroft indicating their desire to have the church preserved and their willingness to help fund the project. Donations have been received and the process of preparing for the roof replacement at a cost of approximately \$5000 has begun. Bancroft will keep us posted on specific needs to renovate the building.

For more information, contact Mary Leighty at 785-379-5779.

### BUGGY DAYS



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## Renewed Interest In Seneca Granite Fountain

Revitalization activities of Seneca's Main Street has rekindled Interest in the three-ton granite fountain now in the Seneca City Park, but originally stood on Main Street.

Originally the ornamental fountain stood on Main Street and was a horse fountain donated by the estate of a wealthy bachelor philanthropist, Herman Lee Ensign, New York City. Mr. Ensign had no relatives to inherit his wealth and the bulk of his fortune was dedicated to the formation of a society known as the National Humane Alliance, with the horse and other animals as objects of charity. Mr. Ensign was a lover of fine horses and his associate in business, Louis Seaver, was made executor of the will, secretary-treasurer of the society, and was instructed to devote the entire amount to the distribution of drinking fountains for animals, horses in particular.

The persistence of an early-day Mayor led to Seneca acquiring one of the "Ensign" fountains. Mayor Jake Cohen had industriously sought one of the fountains for Seneca for over one year before the National Humane Alliance visited the city and inspected the proposed site for the fountain. The announcement letter to the city said, in part, "We have decided to deliver one of our second size fountains to the city of Seneca, free of charge, freight prepaid, provided we are officially informed of the following conditions: that the city of Seneca will take the fountain from the car and place it on a good foundation at the intersection of Main and Wayne (Third) Streets, put in good water connection and guarantee a constant water supply, permanent care to said fountain."

Mayor Cohen wasn't one to leave things to chance, and when Mr. Seaver visited Seneca he was treated to a ride behind Cohen's beautiful black horses, the newspaper article notes. The Seneca City Council officially accepted the fountain at its September 2, 1910 meeting. The foundation was placed in the center of the intersection of Main and Third Streets; its round cement base can still be seen at the intersection.

The fountain saw much use at that location, near the Seneca Theatre and the Gilford Hotel. Horses brought into town could have a drink of Maxwell Springs water which was piped into town around the same time. It was assumed that the fountain would remain in place and be in use for hundreds of years. But cars got thicker on Main Street and horses became fewer. And soon came the day that the big fountain in the middle of the street was a hindrance to traffic. Just when it was taken down is unclear, but according to newspaper stories, it laid in sections in the city park for a number of years. Later, the Seneca Garden Club had the fountain erected in the city park, where it stands today, serving as a bird bath and ornament.

The Pioneer Press, September 1999;  
Reprint from Courier-Tribune



### Appreciations

The following contributions in memory and/or in honor of friends of the museum have been received:

#### Memorial Donations:

Barbara Hunninghake

Michael Niehues



#### Donations:

Libby Engelken—birth

Clarence & Lillian Engelken—

50th Wedding Anniversary

## Nemaha County Historical Society Administrative Board

### 2007-2008 Officers:

President	Anita Heiman
Vice President	Richard Schmitz
Secretary	DarlAnn Rial
Treasurer	DarlAnn Rial

### Directors:

Pam Davis
Theresa Hutfles
Byron Lear
Joyce Olberding
Bill Rettele
Kenny Stallbaumer
Naomi Turner
Eugene Visser
Mary Ann York

Director: Diane Rottinghaus

### Committee Chairs:

Membership	Dorothy Pearl Murphy
Curator	Lillian Engelken
Computer Mgmt.	Dean Rial
Librarian	Mary Steinlage
Finance	Dean Rial
Facilities	Richard Schmitz
Website	Ken Stallbaumer

Pioneer Press Editor DarlAnn Rial

### ANNUAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FEES PAST DUE!

The annual individual Historical Society Membership fee of \$10.00 was due July 31, 2007. An individual Lifetime Membership fee is \$200. Since the Genealogy Society no longer functions, any Genealogy dues received will be refunded.

### Business Membership

A business membership category is available at an annual cost of \$25.00. The business membership will provide a business listing in the quarterly newsletter and all NCHS worldwide websites.

## Early Day Railroads

From a Jan. 17, 1963, Rotary Club speech made by Ray T. Ingalls, a former editor of the Goff Advance newspaper.

Our chairman has assigned me the topic of Early Day Railroads and I find I have slipped somewhat when it comes to statistics. The things a person observes first hand are usually more interesting. I have been away from Seneca about 47 of those years, but was back often for a visit and did not return to the hometown without a visit with Mr. Seneca himself. Old Joel Joe, himself, can recall many earlier day events, and whenever he calls on someone else to review history, it is a credit to their seniority. Joe first made his appearance on Main Street, Seneca, fifty-five years ago...a peppy, congenial young man, whose cheerful greeting was a lift to everyone along the street. Like Old Man River he has just kept rolling along without interruption. Joe's early day jobs as store clerk, and a man of all work, were not panty waist affairs.

With the highly developed means of communication world wide air travel, motor transportation and pioneering into outer space, of today, it is just a little difficult to realize that a little more than fifty years ago the railroad was our only life line for travel, commerce or contact, even with the folks in the next county.

As early as 1860 an effort was made to build a railroad from St. Joseph, Missouri, west through Kansas northern tier of counties. Meetings were held at various times and places, including one at Seneca in 1864. It was not until May 12, 1866, that a permanent organization was formed at a meeting in Hiawatha. This was the same year that the Kansas state legislature passed an act granting 500,000 acres of land, that had been donated by the federal government, to four railroad companies, including the northern part of Kansas, from Elwood west. The organization elected Samuel L. Lappin, of Seneca, as president, and a board of eleven directors: three of them from Nemaha County. There was the expected delay in formulating plans, but construction got underway, and the last rails were laid across Nemaha County in 1870 of the St. Joseph and Denver City Railroad.

This man, Lappin, was a controversial figure in Kansas history. He was the son of Finley Lappin, who built the first house in Seneca, a double log cabin, on the corner where Masterson's store is now located. He had been Nemaha County's representative in the Territorial legislature, the county's first Register of Deeds, one of the founders of the original Town Company, and had a part in about every Seneca development. He was elected State Treasurer in 1874, and the next year was indicted, together with his bondsman and brother-in-law, C.C. Scrafford, for forging and selling more than \$20,000 in bogus school bonds. Their arrest, escape from jail, and as fugitives reads like a fictional novel. They were arrested after some years in Peru, and brought back for trial. Scrafford was acquitted and Lappin finally pardoned. The state had levied on all their holdings in Nemaha County, and the amount realized made good all the money it had cost the state, except the \$2500 they were out in the cost of tracking them down and bringing them to trial. Scrafford continued as a town builder in Seneca, the Gilford hotel and other buildings. Lappin was set up in business by his friends at Lenora, Kansas as the west end of the Central Branch Railroad.

John E. Smith, who owned the section of line west of the Seneca town-site, and who had built and operated the Smith Hotel (of Pony Express fame) on the A&P corner on Main,

headed a delegation to protest a loan on the bonds on the grounds that the corporation building the railroad was not the same as the one named in the earlier election. The county won their case in the Kansas Supreme Court and the bonds were not issued. The City of Seneca had granted the railroad company 100 feet of right-away around town, also 10 acres of land at the present depot site that included the three blocks to the south, that was unimproved for many years, with the exception of extensive stock yards at the west end. An interesting note is the city clerk's records of 1872 tells of the city granting the railroad and Contractor Wetmore, the right to lay a temporary track up 7th Street to the courthouse site to carry materials for building the old courthouse.

Instead of building across Kansas to Denver, as originally planned, the company turned northwest from Marshall County to Grand Island, Nebraska and the name was changed to St. Joseph and Grand Island. For nearly forty years the road enjoyed one of the heaviest passenger, freight and express patronages in the Midwest, especially after it became a part of the Union Pacific system, and service extended into Kansas City. Night-time passengers, Nos. 1 and 2, required several Pullman sleepers to accommodate travel over the more than 300 mile route. The freight, mail and express business served on the richest sections of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. It was not until the Topeka Northwestern was completed to Marysville in 1909 that the Grand Island started to lose business to the Union Pacific cut-off and shorter route through Topeka, to terminals at Kansas City.

Knowledge of the volume of business comes from listening to the conversation of men in railroad employ. As a boy, I carried the only daily newspaper route in Seneca, in the late 1900's. The morning paper arrived on the Grand Island passenger train at 1:21 a.m. and at election time or on other special occasions, I met the train to serve my customers, many of whom were at the depot. Not more than thirty people received their daily by carrier.

I recall one special event during the Spanish-American War. Seneca had a number of men in the 20<sup>th</sup> Kansas Volunteers, and U.S. Navy, and patriotic interest was a high pitch. When our Navy sank the Spanish fleet at Manila, on May 1, 1898, meager news filtered into Seneca over the Postal Telegraph and Western Union, and there were crowds of people all day about the Postal office that was located in a small frame building on the corner where the Henry Peppersack filling station is now located. Ben Hart was the telegrapher. The Western Union was at the depot. There was a large crowd at the depot when the passenger from the east arrived at one o'clock in the morning, including more than half of my customers. Two town characters, Bill Bendon, an Irish auctioneer, and Art Malloy, who was really celebrating, insisted on going with me to deliver the balance of my papers. They wanted to wake up everyone in town that was asleep. Emblazoned across the front page of the Kansas City Star were the words, "Remember the Maine - To Hell with Spain" - and below the verse: "Dewey was the morning on the very first day of May; Dewey was the Admiral down at Manila Bay. Dewey was the Regent's eyes, with spots of Royal Blue. Do we feel discouraged? I do not think we do."

As we arrived at the homes of my remaining customers, Bill and Art pounded on the doors and shook a couple of cow bells they carried, and shouted "Remember the Maine—To Hell with Spain."

(To be continued in November issue of Pioneer Press)



Virtual Tour: Visit the Ashland museum's Past Perfect Virtual Tour at [www.pioneer-krier.com](http://www.pioneer-krier.com)

## THE FORD LEGACY IN NEMAHA COUNTY

### Benjamin F. Ford

*Visitors to the Historical Museum on June 2, 2007, were several families from Ohio and Nebraska seeking information about the Ford Cemetery. Descendants of Benjamin F. Ford, Lucille and Michael Waller of Carter Lake, IA; Roger Waller of Omaha, NE, Kelly and Tracy Stanbaugh of LaVista, NE and Patsy Deney of Dennison, Iowa toured the Sheriff's Residence and Jail, viewed copies of Benjamin Ford archives and received a map to the Ford Cemetery and the home of Carol and Jim Kohake who live in the original Ford home. The visitors had visited the Kelly Church and made connections with Mary Steinlage who sent them to the museum. The families were also related to Sheriff Herman Mohringer and enjoyed visiting the Sheriff's displays.*

The Ford family in Nemaha County was one of the earliest pioneer families in Kansas and helped settle the county as early as 1868. The subject of this review is Benjamin F. Ford, owner of 240 acres of farm land in Adams Township. He was the son of Rev. Joseph and Sarah F. (Hunt) Ford. Rev. Joseph Ford was born January 6, 1847, and was reared on a farm in the Ohio. He did all kinds of hard farm labor, such as grubbing, ditching and breaking land for cultivation. In 1867, he made his first trip to Kansas and investigated the prospects in Kansas. He remained only a few months on his first trip, but returned in 1868 and bought eighty acres. He was married to Sarah Elizabeth Hunt in August 16, 1868 and moved her to this tract of land, which was only partly improved with a small house and clearing for cultivation. They settled and had five children: Benjamin, the subject of this review; Mrs. Clara Krauer (became a teacher in Indiana); Mrs. Edith Courter, Wetmore, KS; Mrs. Lulu Richard, wife of a Seneca pastor; and Mason, who cultivated the home place after Joseph and Sarah moved to Seneca in 1908. Joseph rented out most of his large farm of 520 acres. For many years he devoted his time and talents to the ministry and preached in the Primitive Baptist Church. After the death of his wife in 1913, he traveled over the country.

Rev. Joseph Ford was a son of Jonathan G. Ford, born in Warren County, Ohio in April 28, 1823 and married February 12, 1846, to Marinda Hicks, born in Warren County, Ohio, in October 21, 1825.

Jonathan G. Ford was a son of Joseph Ford, Sr. born in Delaware on March 2, 1707. He moved to Ohio with his parents in 1808. Joseph Ford, Sr., married Phoebe Kibbey, who was born in 1800. He died on September 25, 1845 and Phoebe Ford died April 22, 1856.

Benjamin F. Ford, born November 29, 1869 in Nemaha County, reared on the farm and received a district school education, remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age. At this time, he bought eighty acres of land and worked out until he was twenty-five years old. For years he rented his father's large farm, consisting of nearly an entire section of land, and eventually bought 160 acres from his father which adjoined his first eighty. The tract was Benjamin's home place where he erected a large, modern eight-room residence, equipped with running water, bath, lighting system, furnace heat, and elaborately furnishings. He specialized in Poland China swine and Durham cattle of which fine breed he had seventy or more head.

Benjamin married on January 1, 1895, to Miss Osa Hayden, who was the daughter of R. J. and Sarah (Terhune) Hayden of Indiana. R.J. Hayden, her father was born in Indiana in 1842 and enlisted in the Union army in 1861. In 1870, he immigrated to Harrison County, MO and lived there for nine years where Osa was born on February 28, 1871. Hayden came to Nemaha County and farmed for fifteen years and went on to Graham County. He later retired in Waterville, Minn.

Miss Osa Hayden attended district schools until she reached nineteen and worked as domestic help until she married Benjamin Ford. Benjamin and Osa had three children. One child died in infancy, but two children, Asa and Gladys, attended Seneca High School. Benjamin and Osa were members of the Christian Church and took an active part in the affairs of the denomination of which Mr. Ford was a deacon. He was an independent in his political views and was affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. Benjamin took an active part in the affairs of Nemaha County and contributed greatly toward the building up of the great and rich Nemaha County.

*From Tennal, Ralph; "History of Nemaha County, KS"; Standard Publishing Company, Lawrence, KS; 1916; pp 612-614.*



Jim and Carol Kohake currently reside in the former Benjamin F. Ford home.

### Edward Jones

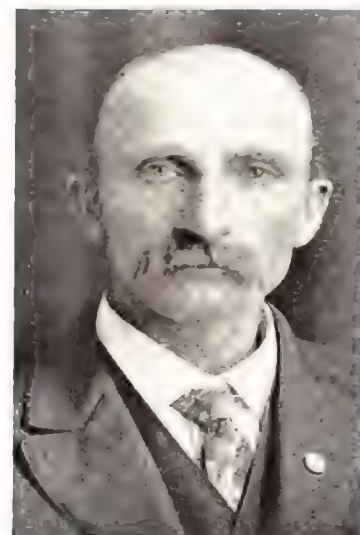
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Benjamin F. Ford

Nemaha County Historical Society

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H)	\$10.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (L)	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership (B)	\$25.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution (Memorial or Recognition of _____)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____	

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# PIONEER PRESS

November—January, 2007



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 7-9, 2007:**

KMA Conference,  
Emporia

**November 12, 2007:**

Veterans Day Reception

**November 13, 2007:**

Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

**November 14, 2007:**

Heritage Days Mtg.  
7:30 a.m.

**February 12, 2008:**

Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

**March 13, 2008:**

Soup Day

**May 13, 2008:** Board

Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**June 10, 2008:** Annual

Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**July 8, 2008:** 7:00 p.m.

Re-organizational Mtg.

**October 4 & 5, 2008:**

Heritage Days 2008



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as one of the Eight  
Wonders of Kansas  
Contest Write-978  
Arapaho Road, Inman,  
KS 67546 or email:**

8wonders@kansassam  
pler.org

## Museum Unveils Early Nemaha County Photo Display



A six panel display was unveiled at Heritage Days 2007 and focuses on the early development of Nemaha County communities influenced by railroad development from the late 1800's.

Each panel depicts scenes from Main Street to depots using city plat maps and photos from each community.

In the 1870's the building of Railroads west of the Missouri sparked the development of Northeast Kansas.

Investors in the riverboat cities of St. Joseph, Atchison, Leavenworth and Kansas City envisioned their cities with railroads making them gateways to the west, with settlers and commerce flowing through their streets.

Nemaha's first settlements were sometimes where travelers found good water and soil and enough firewood to last a while. In the 1860's and 70's railroad surveyors began crisscrossing Nemaha County

looking for good routes.

Some new settlements sat atop hills but surveyors set the rights of way through the valleys. If the town wanted the railroad it needed to move itself to the vicinity of the planned depot and siding.

There are several abandoned town sites in Nemaha County including Richmond, America City, Albany, Farmington, Lincoln, and Ash Point, many of which never grew partly because the railroads bypassed them entirely. Others flourished!

## Heritage Days 2007 Contest Winners

Mary Jo Berges, Manhattan, Kansas won the Pot-Of-Gold prize at Heritage Days 2007.

The scarecrow contest winners were Joyce Olberding for the "most comical", Roxie Schmitz for "most creative", and Lacy Ackerman for the "most historical character depiction". Glenette Mitchell won the Hay Bale contest and the rooster crowing contest,

Mary Jane Fleming and Richard Schmitz tied for the barnyard bingo contest.



## Museum to Host Veterans Day Reception

The Nemaha County Historical Society will host a Veterans Day Reception on November 12th and unveil a new military display in Burger Annex II.

Donated uniforms, photographs, medals, and scrapbooks from veterans, including many from the Grand Old Army, will be on display.



## Families Tour Museum, Explore Treasures of the Past At Heritage Days 2007

### Move From Good To Great

Representatives of the Pony Express Preservation Society and Nemaha County Historical Society recently met to evaluate Heritage Days 2007 and agreed to make a "good" event into a "great" festival by October 2008.

The planning team agreed to focus on three objectives for the Heritage Days 2008: Expand the volunteer base, develop signage for all activities and identify the target participants by creating an event registration center with

an attractive door prize.

Evaluations recommended changes to the luncheon menu, vintage tractor show and the promotion and publicity schedule.

Collaboration with other groups will allow re-packaging in the following activities: Scarecrow contest expanded to include contest for retailers, headline band or vocal group to anchor entertainment, Chili Cook-Off at the Pony Express Museum, paid vendors would be moved to Main Street,

Videos of museum displays, yellow footprints for tour flow through museums, youth as museum guides and county-wide treasure hunt in the months leading up to the historical museum open house.



Heritage Days 2007 Vendors



Bancroft Depot Museum

OPEN FOR TOURS

by contacting

Mary Leighty at 785-379-5779.



A five-generation wedding gowns display of the Lauer-Karnowski-Haug-Bergman-Allen family donated by Jan and Paul Bergman was unveiled at the Nemaha County Historical Museum in Seneca for the Heritage Days Festival. During the winter months, the museum is closed, but tours are available by calling Anita Heiman at 785-556-4094.

## DONALD HOLTHAUS DONATES TO MUSEUM

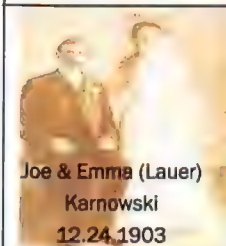


Donald Holthaus

Donald Holthaus, Sunnyvale, California, recently visited relatives and friends in Nemaha County and donated genealogy treasures belonging to his family, the John Lauer-Margaret Machinot family.

A retired software specialist and creator, Mr. Holthaus's donations to the Nemaha County Historical museum include 1000 photos on DVD, genealogy research on Family Tree Maker DVD, a printed hard copy of the DVD content Lauer-Machinot-Karnowski-Holthaus family photos, obituaries, postcards and prayer cards. Six Rogers silver forks, prized possessions of Mr. Holthaus's mother who took them to California when she left Kansas during the dust-bowl days, were also given and are on display at the museum. Mr. Holthaus offers the financial bonus to the Nemaha County Historical Society to sell photos from the files at 35 cents.

The Nemaha County Historical Society's volunteer staff is available to assist patrons with this process by calling 785-336-6366.



Joe & Emma (Lauer)  
Karnowski  
12.24.1903

## PORCH STABILIZATION PROJECT COMPLETED

The project to stabilize the front porch of the historic Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence has been completed. Funded in part by a Heritage Trust Fund 2006 grant from the Kansas State Historical Society, the \$38,500 project received \$30,800 from the state as 80% to 20% match.

The grant provided a soil survey, a structural engineering study, a consultant to develop a long-range preservation plan for the building, design specifications and oversee the construction of porch repair. Phase One of the porch stabilization consisted of demolition of portions of the porch floor structure and reconstruction of



the porch floor with backfill and slab-on-grade without reinstallation of the terrazzo. Phase Two was bid with Phase One, but will need future funding to complete. Phase Two includes installation of

the terrazzo finish, resetting of porch railings and construction of interior handicap accessibility ramps to make the new porch ADA compliant. Thieme Construction, Inc. of Sabetha was contracted for construction work and Stan Hernly, Architect, of Hernly Associates, Inc.

Lawrence, Kansas was hired as consultant. DarlAnn Rial wrote the grant and served as grant administrator for the Nemaha County Historical Society.

## BUGGY DAYS



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Quarterly meeting scheduled for November 13, 7 p.m. at Annex I of the Museum. Public Invited

## THE HOUSE AT 202 S. 4TH STREET

When plans were made for Kansas to enter the Union as a free state, Charles Stafford and Finley Lappin set up the Seneca Town Company in December 1859. Lots 8, 9, 10, and 11 of block 98 were part of the original plot. In 1887 Dr. Gideon Anderson purchased the lots from the company. He built a small residence which also served as his office and brought home his wife, Alice Strader Anderson also a medical doctor. To the south of their home was the C.C. K. Scoville residence (which later became the Lauer Funeral Home). The Scovilles and the Andersons were good friends and even shared



hired help. Both Andersons were capable, devoted doctors, and with their growing practice, they decided to build a larger home with a separate space for their office. In 1902 they moved into their new home and the other house was torn down because it was too close to the new home. Dr. Gideon became ill and died in 1907. Dr. Alice was too heartbroken to continue her practice, sold the home to Henry Fuller and moved to California where she died February 20, 1927. They had no children so she was returned for burial in Seneca City Cemetery.

Henry Fuller's father, John, was born in Sussex County England. He learned the trades of sheet metal and coppersmith in

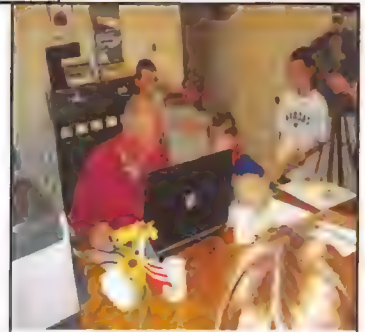
London at night schools. In 1870 he came to the US with a wife and five children. After trying farming, he moved to Seneca and made a success of the hardware business, "Fuller & Son." He also wrote what is said was the only book ever written on "The Art of Coppersmithing." In Ralph Tennal's "History of Nemaha County," John was called the "Sage of Seneca." Henry Fuller bought the home for his wife, the former Mary Sterling, and daughters, Lenta and Ethel. He was a successful business man just like his father, and he invented a calf weaner which was widely used. Henry also had a parrot named Beauty who was considered one of the family. It has been said that Beauty's ghost still occupies the house. (I suspect she is in the attic which is why I never go there.) Beauty lived to a ripe old age and was buried in the family plot at the Seneca City Cemetery. Henry's daughter, Ethel, married and moved to Kansas City. She had one daughter, Edith, who married Victor Arick of Sabetha. Lenta married Dr. J.M. Thomson on October 30, 1912, an optometrist who had emigrated here from England in 1906. He had lived in Topeka and was the soloist for the Grace Cathedral Church there. They bought the house and then took care of Lenta's parents until their deaths. They had no children. Lenta loved children and used to give treats to the neighbor children. Once she gave popcorn balls to the Cyril Lauer family on the 4th of July. Don Lauer ate one just before trying to pitch away a fire cracker which exploded and burned his hand, but it really wasn't Lenta's fault. She was very musical and artistic. She died in 1968 and Dr. Thomson died in 1976. Dr. Jack, as he was known, used to bring me a home made by his hand pot of "Mutton Stew" which I never had the courage to eat. He also crushed several bikes and tricycles driving through our driveway in his big "Buick bomb" but luckily missed our children.

Edith Corby Arick, Lenta's niece, and Dr. Thomson's nephew, Cyril Thomson, Farnsworth, England, inherited the house. It took Edith several years to go through the house and then have a sale. At the time I was wondering how it could possibly take her so long, but now I do understand and wonder if I could go through all my stuff plus decide what to do with it. We bought the Victorian style home from them in 1987 to protect the access to our funeral home property. At first, we planned to tear it down, but then we decided we could live there some day and began a longtime remodeling project. My husband liked the "painted ladies" in San Francisco so we painted the funeral home and our house next door in multi-colored Victorian style. Some of the neighbors and others in town followed Dave's lead. He also kept the original outhouse, but not quite in actual working order. When we looked into the carriage house, we found the original horse stall complete with manure. We changed the house by enlarging and modernizing the kitchen with lots of built in cupboards, taking out the back stairway and adding an upstairs bathroom, attaching a large screened in porch on the back, and refinishing the downstairs hardwood floors. When I objected to some of the changes, Dave would say, "Sally, just because the Victorians did it doesn't mean it was right." I moved into the home in June of 2006 following the death of my husband, Dave Lauer, on December 6, 2005, and the sale of the funeral home on March 31, 2006.

No ghosts have bothered me, but I have two cats so maybe Beauty, the parrot, doesn't like cats. It is a good solid place for me, Sally Lauer, to live for now.

—by Sally Lauer

Editor's Note: Sally Lauer hosted a Victorian Tea in the house at 202 South 4th during Heritage Days the past two years. Her generosity is appreciated by the community and the Nemaha County Historical Society.



The Heritage Days 2007 "Wanted" Poster activity brought many young people to the jail and for touring & photographs.

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Pictured above are the dancers from Little Steps Dance Studio preparing to go on stage as part of the all-day entertainment at the Heritage Days 2007 Festival.

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Seneca, KS 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366

Editor Email: [dsrial@carsoncomm.com](mailto:dsrial@carsoncomm.com)

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

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<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (L)	<b>\$200.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership (B)	<b>\$25.00/year</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution(Memorial or Recognition of _____)	
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# PIONEER PRESS

Volume 25, Issue 3

February—April, 2008



## LAKE NEMAHA DAM GUARDRAIL CONSIDERED FOR HISTORIC REGISTRY

The Lake Nemaha Dam Guardrail stone pillars will be considered by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and Register of Historic Kansas Places on February 23, 2008. The meeting will begin at 9:00 A.M. and will be held in the Museum Classrooms at the Kansas History Center at 6425 SW 6th Avenue in Topeka.



Located 5.12 miles south of Seneca on Kansas Highway 63 over Lake Nemaha on the South Fork of the Nemaha River between 111<sup>th</sup> and 112<sup>th</sup> Road in an area known as Kampler, the stone pillars are nominated as part of the "New Deal-era Resources of Kansas".

The guardrail, built in the late 1930's, is 200 posts of quarried stone, capped with three foot square concrete blocks which are perfectly level to the naked eye. The guardrail is stone pillars, varying in heights from 38 inches to 50 inches, depending on the elevation of the ground level. They have the look of lavish estate stone pillars, but they were built by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps, known as the CCC, which built the dam and original bridge. The rock was hauled from a rock quarry south east of Corning, Kansas.

In a time of dire financial stress and great controversy, the successful project was supported by the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission, the Kansas State Highway Department, the United Department of Agriculture, including the Forestry Service, and the United States Army through the United States Civilian Conservation Corps

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Food Booth-Sale	Feb. 10
Board of Review	Feb. 23
Soup Day	March 13
Bancroft Fundraiser	April 26
Manhattan Tourists	May 8
NCHS Board Mtg.	May 13
Annual Mtg.	June 10
Pony Express Re-ride	June 25
Hwy 36 Treasures	Sept 19-21
Reorganization Mtg.	July 8
Heritage Days	Oct 4-5

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Burger Annex I at 113 North 6th Street, Seneca, Kansas.

The public is invited.

### E-Mail Newsletter

If you would like to be on the new e-mail list to receive the *Pioneer Press* (Publisher format), please send your current e-mail address to [nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com) or [dsrial@carsoncomm.com](mailto:dsrial@carsoncomm.com)

Bancroft Preservation Association has set a fundraiser at the Holton EUM Fellowship Hall on April 26, 2008 to raise funds for the Union Church siding project.

Food and musicians!  
Mark your calendars.



**In Memory**  
**Leslie A. Droge**  
**1917-2008**



# PIONEER PRESS

Volume 26, Issue 3  
Published Quarterly



February - March—April, 2009

## Nemaha County Historical Society Awarded Kansas Humanities Council Grant

TOPEKA – The Kansas Humanities Council awarded Nemaha County Historical Society in Seneca a \$3,500 Heritage Grant for *Settling Nemaha County – Phase II*. Grant funds will support the inventory and preservation of quilts, maps, clothing, hats, and military uniforms in the historical society's textile collection. DarlAnn Rial is the Project Director. Thousands of rare artifacts in the museum are slowly disintegrating because of improper storage and the lack of basic environmental controls and proper preservation techniques.

This project provides a progressive methodology to managing the preservation of all artifacts in the museum. Cataloging and indexing these items with description and interpretation of impact and use in the community life will take this project beyond a simple inventory. This project will help extend the life of artifacts so future generations can view Nemaha County's past with dignity. The Kansas Humanities Council Grant funds will be matched with volunteer hours at the museum.

Recently volunteers Diane Rottinghaus, Joyce Olberding, Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Dean and DarlAnn Rial toured the Kansas State Historical Museum's preservation and storage unit. Consultant Nikaela Zimmerman presented techniques for preserving and storing textile collections.

"Heritage Grants encourage the preservation of local cultural resources," said Julie Mulvihill, Executive Director of the Kansas Humanities Council. "The Nemaha County Historical Society's project guarantees that the textile collection will be preserved and available for future generations."

A non-profit organization with over 35 years experience, the Kansas Humanities Council conducts and supports community-based programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grant-making program, and encourages Kansans to participate in their communities. For more information contact the Kansas Humanities Council at 785/357-0359 or visit online at [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Heritage Days Mtg.	Feb. 11
Heritage Days Mtg.	Mar. 18
Soup Day	March 19
Heritage Days Mtg.	April 8
Board Mtg.	May 12
Heritage Days Mtg.	May 13
Annual Mtg.	June 9
Heritage Days Mtg.	June 10
Reorganization	July 14
Heritage Days Mtg.	July 15

### Memorials Received



Louise G. Stuke  
1923 – 2008



Mary Rochel  
1908 — 2008



## Inventory of Nemaha County Historical Museum Becomes A Treasure Hunt

Volunteers and staff are three years into the inventory of the Nemaha County Historical Museum. The inventory and accession of the museum's library this fall has become a treasure hunt. Every book, magazine, scrapbook and record book is being cataloged and preserved. Every page of each book and magazine has been checked. Treasures have been found tucked between pages:

Between two 1907 Ladies Home Journal magazines was found a copy of a land patent to James S. Lowry, fifer in the Captain Gibbs Company, Tennessee Militia, for service in the War of 1812, signed by President Abraham Lincoln. Research reveals that he sold the eighty-five and eighty-hundredths of an acre to Theodore A. Campfield, who was given the other half of the southwest quarter of Section Nineteen in Township Three of Range Eleven of Kickapoo, Kansas. Mr. Campfield came to Kansas and eventually owned other land.

Among the Rufus Emery and R.M. Emery, Jr. Law Books was a small book which appears to be the director's notes for the Kansas Historical Pageant presented for two nights at the Seneca Opera House. The book contains the complete script, descriptions of characters, actors, props, musicians, and newspaper reviews. Although there is no date, research has revealed that this presentation was likely in the late 1800's. Various communities sent representatives for presentation training in Topeka. Names of actors in the local pageant book included Capt. R. M. Emery, Jake Cohen, Charlie Collins, Mrs. E. Vorhes, Miss Helen Hill, Mrs. Anna Thompson, Miss Dora Taylor, Miss Addie Taylor, Dr. Anderson, Herbert Fuller, Guy Taylor, Mr. Baxter, Rev. J.A. Stover, Mr. Kinman, and Mr. Sherrard. Any information about the Pageant is welcomed by NCHS.

## Volunteers are at the heart of the Museum

Volunteers provide vital support to the Museum by giving programs or tours, working with exhibits, or cataloguing objects in our collections. Volunteers provide help at food booths at auctions on the average of once a month to fund the monthly expenses of the museum. A group of twenty dependable volunteers bake pies for each food booth and serve with Sloppy Joes, Chili Dogs and drinks. These volunteers are the core of the Historical Society, a non-profit organization that supports the Museum through their financial contributions. Fundraisers such as the Soup Day event are necessary for the museum to save Nemaha County's history. Volunteers will be needed to bake desserts for the Soup Day and will be called within the month.

Anyone interested in sewing can help with the Textile Preservation Project by creating padded hangers. With the historical society providing the hangers, batting and unbleached muslin, these items can be made at home, at the volunteer's own pace. Interested, call the museum at 336-6366 or DarlAnn Rial at 785-294-1174.



**Bancroft Depot Museum**

**Progress Report:** Trenching for electricity to the church from the depot is complete. Electricity will soon be available as work continues at the Bancroft church.

from October Bell & Whistle newsletter:

*The Rest of the Story: In the August, 2008, issue, we printed an article about the size of the railroad tracks—this is the final paragraph of that article, called, "the twist."*

*When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, you will notice there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRB's. The SRB's are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRB's would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRB's had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRB's must fit through the tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track,, (as you know from the August issue) is about as wide as two horses' behinds.*

*So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's behind. And you thought that being a horse's"\_\_\_" wasn't important? Ancient horses' behinds control almost everything, and CURRENT ones are controlling everything else.*

Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc. Fundraiser

# Soup Day

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

**Thursday,  
March 19, 2009**

**Vegetable Beef Soup  
Chili, Ham and Beans Soup  
Cornbread, Relishes, Ham Sandwich,  
Dessert and Drink**

**Free Will Offering**

**11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

*It is all about  
Preserving History  
of Nemaha County*



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Society, Inc. Fundraiser

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West Entrance**

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Burger Annex I—

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Email: [nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com)



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## Snow Day

By Faithe Hoover Musser

Youngsters today have it easy in regard to school closings because of snow or icy roads. We four girls were not so fortunate. I remember one school we went to was a little over one-half mile away. We walked to school in all kinds of weather. It had been snowing and blowing and drifting throughout the night. We had to get up early, go to the barn to milk the cows in zero weather, then wash the separator before going in for breakfast. After the breakfast dishes were done, we got dressed for school. There were high drifts in our lane and down the road. We had bundled up well with our shoes and mittens. I remember when we walked through the snow banks one leg would sink down into the snow bank and I would lift it out and take a step and pull it out while the other leg went into the snow bank. That is how we got to school. We were freezing cold carrying our dinner pails. We were crying when we got to school.

There was a large furnace in the middle of the one room school house with all eight grades. Our teacher was so kind to us. She lived just across the road from the school house. She had basins of cold water for us to put our hands in to take the "sting" out of them. We would leave them in the water for minutes before they were ready to come out of the water. Our clothing was wet with the snow on us from the time we left our homes. We laid our mittens around the stove to dry before putting them on to go home after school. Then after school was out we put on our heavy coats and mittens to track in the snow again. That's the way it would go nearly all winter. When we got home, we would again take off our coats, mittens, and overshoes and warm up by the coal stove before we had to go out to milk the cows. What a life. But, we survived. The children today don't know how fortunate they are. I almost "cringe" when I think about those days of snow and ice, but we lived through them and were none the worse for having gone through that.

When we would go to church, and church was never canceled because of weather, we would heat bricks in the oven to keep our feet warm. We would drive to church in a big wagon with a team of horses pulling it. We children thought that was exciting, although we felt nearly frozen when we got to church.

*From My Spiritual Heritage, Vantage Press, 1998 Submitted by Dorothy Pearl Murphy, cousin of F. Musser*

## Civil War Veteran's Grave Gets Attention

Carol Kohake, a member of the Nemaha County Historical Society and former board member, writes the following review of her Ford Cemetery Project:

*I have lived in Ford Community for over 33 years and enjoy the history of the area. There is a cemetery one and a half miles from our home that I enjoy visiting. I try to keep sticks, etc. picked up after storms. Ray Claycamp volunteers with the larger cleaning projects and Lorestene Schmelzle sees to the mowing and trimming during the warm months. There are several tombstones that need attention, and one of the stones belongs to a man by the name of Joseph Guffy. Several weeks ago an article by Clara Rienecke in the Courier told of the GAR and Civil War vets in this area. She had a picture with the article, and low and behold, Joseph Guffy was in the picture. I was so excited to finally see a face to the tombstone.*

A very good friend of mine, Hazel Hoffman, grew up in the Ford Community. Her family lived across the road from the Ford School and Hazel remembered a teacher rooming with them by the name of Mildred Guffy (the daughter of Joseph). Hazel knew that Mildred married a Lamping and had three sons. One of the sons was a classmate of her sister, Margie, and graduated from Seneca Public High School in 1940. His name was Dale Lamping. I contacted the alumni secretary and she gave me Dale's address. I wrote him to see if he would be interested in helping to restore his grandfather's gravestone. Five days after I mailed it, I heard from him. He mailed me a check to help get things rolling.

*I called Bill Love for assistance and he told me to call Jim Lohmann, the Boy Scout leader in Seneca. Jim was interested and visited the site. He agrees that the cemetery project is a perfect Eagle Scout project and will submit an application for approval for the project.*

Joseph Guffy—





**NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL  
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### KMA Grant Awarded to Historical Society

Anita Heiman, President of the Board, accepted the Kansas Museum Association's institutional grant awarded to the Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Manhattan on October 31, 2008.

The \$400 grant will fund the preservation and housing of 80 boxes of Strathman Photography Glass Plate Negatives which have been stored in the basement of historic main street building since 1965 and donated by Rosann Hunninghake. The grant will purchase acid free boxes and loosely-fitting, buffered paper sleeves with side seams. Although not all the glass plates can be safeguarded, those that are not flaking will be housed individually using non-vinyl plastic gloves. Volunteers and museum staff will place each glass plate in a sleeve with the emulsion side away from the seams. The plates will be stored vertically, on the long edge, in document boxes. Corrugated board will interleave every inch to support the plates in 5 x 7" boxes. The glass negatives will be identified, accessioned, cataloged, digitized, and placed in boxes clearly labeled with name, date and accession number.

### Veterans of World War II Oral History Project Begins

The Nemaha County Historical Society has begun to capture the personal recollections of those men and women who served their country in World War II. They will store the stories on DVD to provide cataloging and indexing of the collection. The Project also collects the recollections of those who have helped on the home front during World War II. The focus is on first-hand accounts of veterans who served from 1939—1946.

The Veterans Oral History Project works in collaboration with numerous organizations, including the Library of Congress, state and local veterans' organizations, Kansas Humanities Council, and the local cable access station, SCTV. The Project is supported by public and private funding. Appointments with Veterans to be interviewed are scheduled in a private setting. The interviews are copied onto DVDs, one of which is archived at the museum. The second one is cataloged and made available for public use, and the third DVD is given to the veteran as a personal history.

By the fall of 2009 the Project should include over 160 interviews available on DVD, and the collection will continue to grow as a companion to the diverse display of military uniforms, photographs and documents on display at the museum. Contact Diane Rottinghaus, Nemaha County Historical Museum Director at 785-336-6366 for more information.



# PIONEER PRESS

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Published Quarterly



May, June, July, 2009

Mary Ann York

## A Legacy of Generosity

Her hands were always busy and her feet rarely still. Driven by a generosity of heart, she visited newcomers with cookies or lemon meringue pie and invited them to church, to play bridge, to coffee and even to a family gathering. Mary Ann York treated the lonely, busy, isolated, rich and poor to her generosity with gifts of garden produce, baked goods and her famous dish scratchers. She taught others to play bridge, quilt and bake, always with compassion and kindness.

Over the last ten years, she has spent endless hours calling society members and friends for pie donations to the annual soup lunch and auction food booths to fund the Historical Society's activities. She treated board members with her bakery treats. She kept the board meetings on schedule and firmly insisted on proper parliamentary procedure, and collected money at the food booths. Over the years, she supported the Historical Society by donating fixtures and pharmacy items from Harsh Drug Store, even her grandfather D.B. Harsh's prescription notebook and her beloved grandmother's favorite dress which is accessioned to the textile collection.

A traffic accident in 2008 cut short Mary Ann's term as a Board Trustee of the Nemaha County Historical Society. Over the past year, we have prayed for M. A.'s healing and she taught us endurance. We recognized how much her generosity had influenced her community, church and the historical society.

Her generosity of heart activated her hands and feet to serve so many people in various ways as she served Christ. We will miss M. A. York, but we are thankful that she was a part of our lives.

### Annual Meeting—June 9, 2009

6:30 p.m.: Covered dish dinner

7:00 p.m.: Special Speaker

7:30 p.m.: Business Meeting :

Election - four positions on Board of Directors

Vote on "Conflict of Interest" Amendment to By-Laws:

(Read on the official NCHS website: [www.nemahacountyhistorical.com](http://www.nemahacountyhistorical.com) )

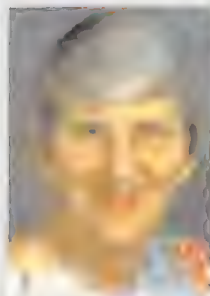
## Memorials Received



Zita M.  
Bergman  
1927-2009



Reva P.  
Olberding  
1923-2009



Mary Ann  
York  
1934-2009

Corey Davis  
1992—2009



## Historical Society Seeks Research and Funding Support for Proposed Kelly Traveling Display

With the overwhelming success of Mary Steinlage's new book, *The History of Kelly*, the Nemaha County Historical Society is seeking interested Kelly residents or former residents to assist with a Traveling Kelly Display, proposed by Display Artist John Vorhes, Maryland. With additional stories, photos and funding assistance from the Kelly Community, the proposed project could be ready by the Kelly All-School reunion on September 5, 2009.

Many stories are not told in Mary's book because the years have taken their toll, but Mary's collection of photos and unusual news articles printed in the book will be the basis of the display. Nemaha County Historical Society would assist with lay-outs and photos printing. Carpentry, research and funding are needed from the Kelly area. If interested, call Anita Heiman at 785-336-2784 or Richard Schmitz at 785-336-6596 ([schmitzra@nvcs.com](mailto:schmitzra@nvcs.com)) or contact the museum at 785-336-6366 ([nchs@rainbowtel.net](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net)).

Note from Mary: In her Christmas letter, a first cousin of Mary's who lives in Germany, requested the book. So Mary sent her a copy on February 5, 2009. On Sunday morning, March 22, the cousin called Mary from Germany to tell her that she had received the book and was so happy with it. She even managed to give her response by speaking in English, something she rarely has done via telephone.

## Veterans of World War II Oral History Project Begins

This past month the Veterans of World War II History Project began with interviews of several veterans, including Norbert Hoffman of Centralia. Diane Rottinghaus, Anita Heiman and Dean Rial are capturing the personal recollections of those men who served their country in WW II.

Norbert (Nub) was born ninety-five years ago on Railroad Avenue only three blocks from where he now lives in Centralia. His dad was a butcher at the grocery store and his mother helped raise two brothers, three sisters and Nub. In 1943, Nub was thirty years old and one of the last of the older fellows to be drafted into the military. Father of three, he was working at a filling station when Pearl Harbor happened. He took his basic training in Camp Blanding, Florida. On video, he shares many stories on the audio/video recording including stories of his trigger finger, his Marksmanship Award and the sad lose of his best friend Buddy in Belgium.

Appointments with Veterans to be interviewed are scheduled in a private setting. The interviews are copied onto DVDs and archived at the museum and will be shared with the Library of Congress, state and local veterans' organizations, Kansas Humanities Council, and the local cable access station, SCTV.

The collection will continue to grow as a companion to the diverse display of military uniforms, photographs and documents at the museum, open week days from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contact Diane Rottinghaus, Nemaha County Historical Museum Director at 785-336-6366 for more information or an appointment.



**Progress Report:** The Bancroft Depot Preservation group is still getting bids to finish work on the Union Church. The Depot will re-open on Memorial Day Weekend with no church service on Sunday morning, instead an expanded get-together is planned for the afternoon. The Bancroft annual picnic is the 4th Sunday in June beginning with a business meeting at 4:30 p.m. For an old-fashioned good time, plan to attend.

## New Website

The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. desires to bring awareness of the rich heritage preserved in the museum to researchers, tourists, genealogists and the local community and organizations. To do so, the Board of Directors established an official website, created and managed by Vision Webs, LLC.

Rainbow Communications has agreed to sponsor the Nemaha County Historical Society's [www.nemahacountyhistorical.com](http://www.nemahacountyhistorical.com) web site and link it under their tab "Local Links".

Quarterly meeting agendas and meeting minutes, by-laws and pending amendments are posted regularly on the website. This newsletter and heritage day activities will be updated regularly. Plans are underway to use the website for the virtual treasure hunt leading up to the Heritage Days 2009 on October 3 & 4, 2009.

Interactive e-mails are received from the website to the museum's computers each day. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome by calling 785-336-6366.





**Recent Acquisitions:** The Nemaha County Historical Museum has received into temporary custody the following donated items for Board approval at May 12th quarterly meeting:

- Harlan Spain, What Cheer, IA: Unidentified (128) photos of Baileyville families: Keri, Tryon, Lockard and/or McMains (Attempting to find and distribute the photos to interested descendants.)
- Virginia Brown, Holton: Northwood Carnival Glass bowl in memory of her sister Lila Baker
- Nancy Gafford: Baby blanket, suit and two pair of bootees, baby hat, two WWII ration books and pin
- Anita Heiman: Vintage baby buggy, picture frames and framed picture belonging to her grandmother, Mrs. O.V. (Christina Roush) Collins, Ordained Minister. Given to Christina by the Sunday School class at the annual convention of the Nemaha County Council of Christian Education, November 25, 1941; CCC camp first aid box.
- Lyle Rottinghaus: Bloss Cemetery map and pictures of the Hicks family.
- Anonymous: Ft. Markley 1946 Season Pass
- Nemaha County Shop: 1905 Nemaha County Railroad map
- Verita Schmitz: Copy of City of Baileyville abstract
- Carol Kohake: Embroidered baby shoes
- Velven York: Ed Taylor's Seabees uniforms, Velven's Air Force hats, Bicentennial newspapers and promotional buttons, worked stone artifacts, eight Seneca Heritage prints, Mary Ann York's sorority sweater and fifty photographs of Harsh Drug Store as it was being constructed.
- Steve and Wanda Stoltenberg, Horton: Two ornate, old and historic oak chairs from Judge's room in old Nemaha County Courthouse, purchased at estate sale seventeen years ago from Virginia Pfeleider.
- Don Holthaus, CA: Seneca school photo (perhaps 1936) sent to him by Beth Lauer Reynolds for identification.

Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

**Genealogy Researcher Honored:** Dorothy Pearl Murphy turned 90 years old on April 28, 2009. This dependable, tireless museum volunteer was honored by the Nemaha County Historical Society with roses and a name plate on the NCHS Honoriam Plaque this month. Born, raised and educated in Dickinson County, Kansas, she taught five years in one-room schools, and took nurses' training at St. Margaret's in Kansas City. She worked as nurse in Abilene where she married Evert, moved to Seneca in 1950, worked in the Nemaha Valley Community Hospital for ten years and was school nurse until she retired. She raised seven children: Donna Thoele (Topeka), Stan Murphy (Seneca), Joyce Koch (Beattie), George (Nevada), Nelda Appell (Wichita), Walter (Lawrence), and Phillip (Topeka). She has 14 grandchildren, 2 step grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 5 step great-grandchildren. Upon retirement, she became involved in the Historical Society, served on the Board of Directors and was soon elected President (1993-1995). When she stepped off the board, she continued to serve as membership chairman. Dorothy has a sharp mind and works at the computer at least four days a week as a part of the museum's inventory preservation project.

Dorothy Pearl has notified the Board of Directors that she needs to withdraw from some of her activities. She has been preparing her assistant, Alma Ackerman, to chair the membership committee starting next year. However, Dorothy's greatest passion is genealogy research. She says, "genealogy research is an enjoyable hobby. I use the museum archives, the library, the courthouse and cemeteries for information. The answers I get when I find an elusive ancestor or a tidbit of information, gives me great joy. It is the best part of the job," she continues.

When the Historical Society receives genealogy inquiries via letter, e-mail and website, they forward all such inquiries to Dorothy Pearl, who always finalizes the requests with appropriate charges from the customer. She is willing to train and familiarize a replacement for this specialized activity. Anyone interested in working with Dorothy to train for this position, should contact Dorothy via NCHS e-mail [nchs@rainbowtel.net](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net) or [dpmurphy@rainbowtel.net](mailto:dpmurphy@rainbowtel.net) or call the museum at 785-336-6366.



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## Llewellyn Castle

By John T. Bristow

published in Wetmore Spectator, Seneca Courier-Tribune,  
Goff Advance, Topeka Daily Capital—October, 1931

A half century ago England got rid of some of her surplus inhabitants by sending them over to this country to "root hog, or die" as the old saying is. They drifted in here "like lost leaves from the annals of men." Colonies were planted in numerous sections of Kansas. Nemaha County, with her great sweep of vacant rolling prairies, inviting, snared one of these colonies.

The settlement known as the old English colony was on section twenty-five, in Harrison township, five miles northwest of Wetmore. The section was purchased from the Union Pacific railroad company by the Co-operative Colonization Company, of London, about 1870.

The London Colonization Company had about six hundred members. They drew lots to determine who would be the luck-or unlucky-ones to come over first, expenses paid. John Fuller, John Mollineaux, George Dutch, John Radford, Charles McCarthy and John Stowell were the original six to enter up the duties of conquering the land, virgin wild land it was. Except John Stowell, all these men had families, but they did not all bring their families over at first.

An eight-room house was built in the middle of the section and all managed to live in it for a while. It was called Llewellyn Castle. Later, lean-tos were built on two sides of the big house, and finally, some smaller buildings were erected around the original house. The men were supplied, meagerly, with funds to equip the farm. The idea of the Company at first was to make a town in the center of the section, and cut the land up into 10 acre tracts. They seemed to think that ten acres would make a respectable sized farm. The town of Goff, a mile and a half away, got started and the Colony town project was abandoned. Also the 10 acre farm plan was changed to forty acres.

The lumber for the improvements was unloaded at old Sother, a siding on the railroad a mile and half south of the Colony section. There was a post office at Old Sother. Nothing else. Not even a station agent. Later arrivals of Colonists included the Wes-sels, Beebys, Perrys, Coxes, Ashtons, Trents, McConwells, Gates, Morden, Hill, May, Conover, Weston, Helsby, Weeks, Mrs. Terbit, and others.

(To be continued in August Pioneer Press)

## Museum Happenings

**New Book:** A recent donation to the museum is a book by I.E. Quastler of Coronado, CA, "Missouri Pacific Northwest, a history of the KCNW Railroad". The book was donated by John Vorhes of Maryland and has several chapters with maps and photographs of the railroad through Nemaha County communities. The book can be viewed at the museum.

**Textile Preservation Project:** Appreciation is extended to Shirley Leem who has sewn and delivered over two hundred padded hangers to the museum over the last three months. She answered the call for volunteers in the February Pioneer Press, to make padded hangers for the textile preservation project that the Kansas State Humanities Council has partially funded. Over 600 textile artifacts have been cataloged, accessioned and preserved since January 4th in the on-going inventory of the museum.

**Honorius** contributions have been received this month to honor John and Theresa Hutfles's 50th wedding anniversary and Dorothy Pearl Murphy's 90th birthday. Their names will be placed on NCHS's donor honored plaque.

**Glass Negatives:** The supplies have arrived so the preservation of the glass negative donated by Roseann Hunninghake can begin. The project funded in part by the Kansas Museum Association needs help. Volunteers are needed. Stop by the museum and volunteer an hour or two each week.

**Heritage Festival:** The 34th Annual Heritage Festival planning committee is meeting every month. The event held the first weekend in October will focus on the German Heritage of Nemaha County with a "German Fest" theme. The Pony Express Preservation Society has agreed to hold heritage activities on Saturday and the Nemaha County Historical Society will hold Sunday activities. Representatives of the Seneca Chamber of Commerce and Seneca Downtown Impact have joined the planning committee to provide resources. Community National Bank will celebrate their 25th Anniversary on Sunday, October 4th.



**NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.**

113 North 6th  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS 66538



Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
E-Mail: [nchs@rainbowtel.net](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net)

Website: <http://www.nemahacountyhistorical.com>  
EDITOR: DARLANN RIAL—785-336-0053

MEMBERSHIP: ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL—\$10  
ANNUAL BUSINESS—\$25  
INDIVIDUAL LIFE—\$200  
MONTHLY SPONSOR—\$50

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**Soup Day:** The annual Soup Lunch fundraiser had low attendance, but high enthusiasm on the lovely March 19th Spring day. The Nemaha County Historical Society board is pleased with Director Diane Rottinghaus's organization of the event, the assisting volunteers and the donations of \$1006.50 which will help meet the monthly expenses of the museum. A special thanks to everyone who supported this annual fundraiser with donations of food, help and/or attendance.



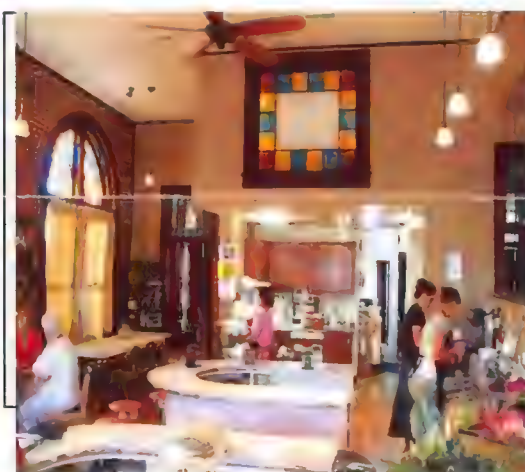
**Progress:** The porch stabilization project of the Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence funded in part by the Kansas Historical Society's 2008 Heritage Trust Fund Grant Program will be completed by June 1st. Top rails were reset with dowels. Sealant connected rails and columns and patched cracked rails. The porch ceiling gaps were covered with trim, cleaned and repainted. A matching terrazzo floor was laid and a drainage system created to allow water to flow away from the historic building.

## Harsh Drug Soda Fountain & Double Horseshoe Bar Saved For Future Generations

When Harsh Drug Store closed on Main Street in 2007, there was great concern for saving and preserving the soda fountain. There seemed to be no buyers for the double horseshoe bar and soda fountain on Main Street. Guided by the Historical Society's mission to preserve history for future generations, NCHS President Anita Heiman approached owner Larry Leasburg and requested that he donate them to the museum.

The action would permit the museum to save history and Mr. Leasburg would receive a tax deduction. Once the agreement was reached, Mayor Mitchell agreed to store the fountain and bar at his new location on Hwy. 36 until a business could be found to use

them. Dick Strathman and his crew from Seneca Wholesale moved the soda fountain and horseshoe bar to storage. The NCHS Board of Trustees con-



sidered placing the fountain and bar in Annex I, but found the space was too limited. Board members contacted possible merchants and encouraged use

of the historical items on Main.

And then, when Cathy Holthaus purchased the First National Bank building in late 2007 and developed plans to restore and preserve the building by opening a deli, coffee house, she contacted Board Members and voiced her interest. The Board approved the loan of the fountain and horseshoe bar at the February, 2008 quarterly meeting. When Cathy opened her business in May, 2009, the

double horseshoe bar and soda fountain were the focal items on the main floor.

The loan agreement was signed July 14, 2009.

## Board Sets 2009-2010 Goals And Causes

The Nemaha County Historical Society's Board of Trustees highlighted areas of need and set goals to meet those needs at their July 14th reorganizational meeting.

To meet the ever growing need for financial support, the board agreed to pursue several meth-

ods to gain an income stream: new fund raising projects, increased number of business sponsorships and historical memberships. The Historical Society plans to garner enough funds to meet monthly expenses, complete the landscaping and start the window resto-

ration projects. Phase II of the artifact and archive preservation and cataloging project funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Committee will be completed by November, 2009. Grant funds will be needed to for Phase III and completion of the inventory of the museum.

## Dates To Remember

August 11, 2009; 7 p.m.

Quarterly Board Meeting

October 3 & 4, 2009; 10-4

Heritage Festival-Open House

November 10, 2009; 7 p.m.

Quarterly Board Meeting

February 9, 2010; 7 p.m.

Quarterly Meeting, 7 p.m.

March 11, 2010; 11-1:30

Soup Day

May 11, 2010; 7 p.m.

Quarterly Board Meeting

June 8, 2010; 6:30 p.m.

Dinner Annual Meeting

July 13, 2010; 7 p.m.

Reorganization Meeting

First Weekend -October 2010

Heritage Festival-Open House





## New To The Museum

Don Holthaus of Sunnyvale, CA donated six genealogy files:

- Descendants of Luttmr Olberding 223 pages
- Descendants of Joes Henrich Schaiper, 3 pages
- Descendants of Anthon Tanking, 9 pages
- Descendant of Joan Lutmerding, 137 pages
- Descendants of Catharine Mulring, 125 pages
- Descendants of Maria Elisabeth Schulte, 29 pages

Velven York: Uniform—Ed Taylor's WWII Navy Seebees

- Korean/Japanese currency. Northern Europe WWII military map
- Photos (150)— Texas to Camp Kimpo, Korea Album (scanned)
- Ed Taylor's Rotary book, military archives
- M.A. York's nurse uniform, scout uniform, photos, and memorabilia
- Twenty apothecary jars from the old Harsh Drug Store
- Photo of Seneca boys at the Great Lakes Naval Station

Diane Rottinghaus: Program—Seneca Veterans Memorial Dedication

- Photos of May 24th Veterans Memorial Dedication
- Genealogy Research—Rottinghaus Family

Lawrence Bonjour, Centralia: 1922 Atlas—Nemaha County

Shirley Kirk, N.C.: Vintage Seneca High School scarf

Maurine Calderwood: Uniform, US Army, Charles Calderwood

- Army shell tips, Orange recognition Letters from Seneca Public High School, Photos (3) Construction at Lake Nemaha; Scrapbook: Kansas Centennial, Lyle Calderwood Hat – black ladies dress hat

David Tangeman: Topeka: Framed Military Star

Alma & Bob Ackerman: Jar opener, CD Copy of Tennen's "Nemaha History

- Nineteen vintage dresses for Heritage Days activities
- Apron from Scotland, Feed sack table cloth, vintage patterns

Mavis Johnson: Three flat irons

Bette J. Campbell, Tulsa, OK: Tulsa World: May 18, 2009: J Masterson obit

Jane Allen Martin, Virginia Beach, VA: Family Photo and WWII Code Room Story

Dean Rial: Europe Military maps and Military History magazines, helmet band

Lewis Childers, Oakton, VA: Burger Collection, shoes, socks, letters

Mary Jane Fleming: Pony Express Archives & Photo Album

Greg Newlin: Manuscripts for Nemaha County cemeteries

Mary Sourk: 23 books, Goff Collection

Wilma Hunninghake: Twenty-four (24) photographs of early settlers

Josepha Niehues: George's US Army uniform, dog tags, medals, sewing kit

James Copeland: DVD copy of Veterans Memorial Dedication 2009

Paul Gudenkauf: Vintage stove, pressure cooker and boxes of "Black Flag"

Rita Holthaus: Newspaper clipping—Dr. C.B. Harsh

Joyce Olberding: Book—History of World War II—Armed Services Mem. Edition

Items to be de-accessed: Five (5) coffins and one wrought iron ice cream parlor table and chairs (reason: no longer in the museum)

Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Begins  
July 1st, 2009

Check  
your mail-  
ing label  
for date of  
member-  
ship!



**Time To Pay  
Annual Dues**

**2009—2010**

### ADMINISTRATION

President: Anita Heiman

Vice President:

Richard Schmitz

Board Secretary- Treasurer:

DarIAnn Rial

Director:

Diane Rottinghaus

Membership:

Alma Ackerman

Public Relations:

Clara Reinecke

Curators: Joyce Olberding  
& Lillian Engelken

Finance Chair: Dean Rial

Librarian: Mary Steinlage

Research: Dorothy Pearl  
Murphy

Grounds: Frank Heiman

Building:

Bob Ackerman

Computer Management:

Harry Stewart & Dean Rial

## World War II Inside Story



*The attached picture features my uncle, Charles L.D. Allen, Katherine Allen (Mrs. Ulmer), and my father John H. Allen. It was taken in 1941-2 in Washington D.C. where all three were on active duty with the United States Navy*

*I heard the following story many times from my father and uncle, both of whom were born and raised in Seneca and went on to successful careers in the U.S. Navy.*

*—Jane Allen Martin, Virginia Beach, VA*

John and Charles were both assigned to the Navy code room in Washington, D.C. in 1941 as cryptologists. A radio engineer by training, my father quipped, "They needed bum cryptologists worse than they needed good radio engineers." Code room staffers decoded radio traffic between the Navy Department and Navy commands around the world. The Allen brothers and their colleagues coded and decoded restricted confidential and secret radio traffic and delivered the results to the appropriate people in the Naval high command.

In the weeks and months preceding the attack on Pearl Harbor, radio traffic filtered through the code room warning of escalating hostilities. A number of messages made it very clear that war was imminent. By the summer of 1941 officers anticipated that we would go to war with Japan in the foreseeable future.

John was home sleeping off the previous night's graveyard shift when his colleagues in the code room received the grave message: "Air raid on Pearl Harbor. This not a drill." He recalled thinking that things would be more chaotic than usual in the code room and life would be disrupted. Immediately before and after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt "did not completely trust the State Department's secure means of communication." Therefore they used Navy communication extensively for private and personal communications with Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain and Chairman Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union. Those were messages of the highest security because of their personal nature. A group of eight officers was authorized to code and decode the president's communication. John was one of that group.

The informal atmosphere of the Navy Department code room changed to a highly disciplined, hectic command post immediately after the Pearl Harbor attack. A special team of cryptanalysts worked long and hard to crack the message codes the Japanese were using. The team was successful and was able to warn U.S. forces of the impending Japanese attack in 1942 on Midway Island. So that time, we were prepared.

### Lost Ring Links Generations

Velven York recently brought a 1948 clipping from a Seneca newspaper entitled, "Lost Ring Links Five Generations".

In 1948, Bert Levick was digging in the garden plot which he had farmed for more than 21 years in an area that had once been a strawberry patch. Bert Levick brought to sight a narrow gold band ring. It was perfect in shape and untarnished, plainly an old-fashioned wedding ring. He remembered the Bennett family were the former owners and made inquiry of Mrs. Edith Harsh Taylor and Mrs. Rose Harsh Skinner, granddaughters of Mr. and Mrs. Tho-

mas Bennett, Sr. The sisters could not remember the ring but wrote Mrs. Edna Bennett Taylor in Kansas City, Kansas. Mrs. Edna Taylor remembered that some of the family had lost the ring, her mother's wedding ring after Mrs. Bennett's death more than a half century before. Mr. and Mrs. Levick went to the home of Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Skinner and presented the ring to eight year old Mary Ann Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.E. Taylor. The Levicks requested the ring be placed in safe-keeping so that when Mary Ann grew up she could be the proud processor of a gold

ring destined to be her wedding ring, the one worn by her great-great grandmother, Isabel, when she married Thomas Bennett in Mitchell, Canada in 1856. The late Mrs. J.E. Harsh, Mary Ann's great-grandmother was the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bennett, Sr. Mrs. Harsh came with her parents from Canada to United States in 1869 at the age of 12, locating in Seneca. Their first home was a double log house, one of the first in Seneca. Velven York plans to pass the ring to his and Mary Ann's five year old granddaughter, Emma York of Washington State.



## Llewellyn Castle (Part 2) by John T. Bristow

The London Colonization Company continued to send members over to Kansas even after the local Company had ceased to exist, gone bankrupt, it was charged, because of the extravagant management of the non-producing misfits sent over in 1870. At this late date it could not be ascertained just what was the text of the contracts between the parent company and the members sent over here. But the impression is that if all had gone well additional lands would have been acquired to accommodate other members. The members, however, kept on coming regardless of the lack of advance preparation.

They scattered out on other lands, mostly around the Colony Castle, usually 40 acre tracts. They were miserably poor. And the privations were many. Mrs. Terbit, having no mode of conveyance, used to walk all the way in from the Colony and carry home on her shoulder a 50 pound sack of flour. Isaac May settled on the 40-acre tract one mile south of Wetmore, which is now the home of George W. Gill. May lived in a dug-out. John Stowell settled on the north eighty of a quarter five miles southwest of Wetmore, known as the Joe Board place, and still later, owned by Charley Krack. George Cox settled the south eighty, which is still in the Cox family, now owned by George's son, Fred, of Goff.

The Colony project was a glorious and ignominious failure from the very first, with romance and intrigue ever in the ascendancy. Those poor Englishmen were as green as the verdant prairies of springtime that lay all about them. And the inexorable hand of Fate pressed down on them heavily. They were besieged by droughts, grasshoppers, prairie fires, blizzards, rattlesnakes, and, worst of all, an abiding ignorance of all things Ameri-

can. When Llewellyn Castle was torn down in later years, a den of rattlesnakes, twenty-two in number, was found under the house. Tom Fish told me that the snakes were often heard flopping against the floor, underneath, while the house was occupied.

Those poor misfits had not a chance. And it was little short of criminal to send them over here so empty handed and so ill equipped for the duties imposed upon them. But they were now all a part of the big, sun-filled Golden West. And they were too poor to go back home.

Many are the causes advanced for the downfall of the Colony Castle project, but the one cause on which all seem to be unanimous, more or less, is that "They were a bunch of rascals." This is probably an error, or partly so, at least.

Internal friction with a very shady but treeless background undoubtedly played its part. But I would rather suspect that, the main cause was ignorance, or to put it more kindly, a lack of knowledge. Tom Fish, our faithful mixer of British-American jurisprudence, three times Justice of the Peace, backs me up in this contention. Says Tommy, "*They just didn't knower anythink about farmin.*" Our Tom attended their meetings back in London at the Newman Street Market headquarters.

But whatever the facts, and admitting that there were among the Colonists no replicas of the man who walked along the Galilean shores two thousands years ago, still I do not subscribe to the general belief that those Colonists were all rascals.

Had they succeeded, handicapped as they were, it would have been a miracle—and only in ancient history do miracles spring full-blown

from questionable beginnings. A condition soon developed among the Colonists on section twenty-five where it was "every fellow for himself and may the devil take the hindmost." True, there was a lot of poor management and some shady, if not to say crooked, transactions. And it appears one man did rather "Lord" it over the others and took the lion's share of everything.

(To be Continued November 2009)



### German Fest Seneca Heritage Festival

Saturday and Sunday  
October 3 & 4, 2009

Seneca's Main Street

10 a.m. —4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Pony Express Museum, Nemaha County Historical Museum, Seneca Downtown Impact, Seneca Chamber of Commerce and Seneca Travel and Tourism Committee

Community National Bank will  
host their 25th Anniversary  
Celebration on Sunday 11—2

Food—Entertainment—Beer Garden—German Heritage Speakers, Fiddlers, Dancers, Artisans, Vendors, Arts & Crafts, Demonstrations, Petting Zoo, Displays, Vintage Dress Photos and Jail Photos

Outdoor Movie—Saturday night 7:00 p.m.

Seneca Downtown Impact will dedicate  
their tour kiosk at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday

Sheriff's Motorcycle Patrol

Watch our website  
[www.nemahacountyhistorical.com](http://www.nemahacountyhistorical.com)  
for the Treasure Hunt Instructions

# 2008-2009 Financial Report

## Income and Spending—Twelve Month Report

June 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Beginning Balance	7/1/08	\$8,829.89
Income		
Contributions	\$2,784.90	
Dues	\$1025.00	
Fundraisers	\$6,777.22	
Grants	\$16,522.72	
Investment Income	\$1,452.26	
Memorials	\$1,165.00	
Nemaha County	\$950.00	
Other Income	\$120.00	
Landscaping Fund	\$5,074.48	
Savings	\$7,806.76	
Total Income		<u>\$43,678.34</u>
Expense		
Administrative	\$1,136.52	
Contact Labor	\$3,363.08	
Contact Labor-Burger	\$1,174.00	
Education	\$145.00	
Fund Raising	\$4,011.57	
Heritage Trust Fund	\$16,367.66	
Historic Sites	\$75.00	
Insurance	\$2,116.00	
Museum	\$8,492.59	
Utilities	\$3,003.03	
Total Expense		<u>\$39,884.45</u>
Ending Balance	6/30/09	\$12,623.78



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Society, Inc.**

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Darl Ann Rial Editor 785-294-1174

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Historical Society**

66538-2663 7003



**Nemaha County Historical Society**

**Date: Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_**

**2009-2010 Registration Form**

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 66538

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H) \$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (Life) \$200.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership \$50.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution-Memorial or Recognition of _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund _____	

**Number of Memberships:** \_\_\_\_\_ **New** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ *Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization.  
Contributions are tax-deductible.*

# Pioneer Press

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

November, December, January

Volume 27, Issue 2

Cool weather and bank celebration bring nice crowds to museums and downtown Seneca

## 34th Nemaha County Heritage Festival

Seneca and Nemaha County have a strong German heritage, thanks to large numbers of German immigrants who came here in the 1800s.

That heritage is still present today, and it's shown not only in our love for food, speakers and authentic German entertainment at the Heritage Festival 2009.

In honor of this German heritage, Scott Seeger, Germanic Language expert shared his power-point research on Saturday at the Pony Express Museum.

Youthful dancers, vocalists and fiddlers entertained a large crowd on the Main Street Kiosk.



The traveling exhibit, "From Far Away Russia: Russian-Germans in Kansas," produced by the Kansas State Historical Society and dis-

played at the Nemaha County Historical Museum drew a steady stream of visitors. Young and old enjoyed the cool weather, the petting zoo, Nolan Sump's stone carving at the Pony Express Museum and Resident Woodcarver Bob Ackerman at the Historical Museum.



## Museum Boards Set Heritage "Day" 2010

Representatives of the Pony Express Preservation Society and the Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. met on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 to evaluate the Seneca Heritage Festival 2009. The expense will be shared by both organiza-

tions with each paying \$312.80. The Travel and Tourism grant has paid \$2000 towards promotion and publicity.

The event activities were reviewed and evaluated. After a discussion of community support, staffing limitations and financial

needs, the boards decided to plan a one-day Heritage Day in 2010. The Sunday October 3rd event will be held at the Nemaha County Historical Museum from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with the Pony Express Museum volunteers assisting with the event.

## Dates To Remember

November 10, 2009: 7 p.m.  
Quarterly Board Meeting

February 9, 2010: 7 p.m.  
Quarterly Meeting, 7 p.m.

March 18, 2010: 11-1:30  
Soup & Chili Fundraiser

May 11, 2010: 7 p.m.  
Quarterly Board Meeting

June 8, 2010: 6:30 p.m.  
Dinner Annual Meeting

July 13, 2010: 7 p.m.  
Reorganization Meeting

Saturday, October 2, 2010  
Fundraiser

Sunday, October 3, 2010  
Heritage Festival-Open House





## New To The Museum

Mary Sourk	Goff Extension Unit Homemaker Club program books, secretary books: 1949-1984
Alma & Bob Ackerman	Feed Sack tablecloth, patterns, baby safety pins – snaps, 1961 & 1965 Farmer's Almanacs; "The Private Mary Chesnut", History of Wetmore; Joe Jones bibliography & painting; Kentucky Confederate Vet and Widows Pension Index; photos (2) Seneca Fair 1920, Bern Postcard, double razor blade sharpener, razor, Blue Cross membership certificate 1951
Mary Jane Fleming	Ft. Markley, Amos Smith & Jim Markley scrapbooks, photos and clippings, genealogy
Carol Kohake	Pink vintage hair dryer
F.G. Holthaus	Newspaper clipping @ Dr. Hash
Greg Newlin, Sabetha	Research for Ancestor Trail, Coal Ck. St. Patrick's Parish
Dean Rial	1970's—80's Computer software & hardware
Carol Lueger	Kelly photos and archives
David Fangman	Photograph of Ft. Lewis and miniature of "Remember the Maine" milk glass
Nellie Beckwith	Photograph: Unidentified Centralia float
Grace Strathman	History of Kampler Switch ( Vondenkamp, Tangeman)
Velven York	Original Harsh Drug photos, clippings, booklets; eight Indian made woven baskets
Jeanie Ziolkowski	Kelly photos, Joe Rottinghaus's store items, booklets: typewriter history, infant care and rules governing Country Safety
Kelly Brest van Kempen	PEO group photograph—1889
Jan & Ray Droge	Copies of photographs: Christine Kock, Christian Henry Steinmeir, Johann and Anna Wilbertz Koch, Clark and Donna Koch Beck family.
Will Scheier, Mission, KS	Copies of photographs: homestead & family 1887 wedding picture of Mathias F Scheier; Mathias Francis Scheier family 1904;
Steve Stallbaumer	Vintage Compass, Surveyor's – wood box; MERS asbestos slate cutter
Dr. Willis Starnes, TX.	Genealogy: Family Group Sheets: Armstrong, Walden, Fox, Cline
Dennis Rottinghaus	Vintage team halters, bridle, saddle, 4 horse collars, two CCC building boards
Louis Childers,, VA	Burger family: clamp meat grinder
Marilyn Ronnebaum	Vintage Baby Log booklet, Onaga Hotel paper fan
John Frey, Dubois, NE	1922 Nemaha County Atlas
Morris Werner, Tennessee	Summary: Central Overland & Pikes Peak Express & Pony Express routes, settlers, hotel , store owners, stage coach station masters, postmasters
Jan Bergman	Photographs & letters: Dr. Conrad Barnes
Albert "Butch" Clark	Sheriff-plaque and picture

## HELP FOR MUSEUM IS NEEDED

Not everyone has the instinct to preserve history.

But in every community, there are a few people who are driven to collect and maintain the history of their world.

In Kansas, the people who care about history gravitate to their local historical society. Most Kansas counties have one, and most counties also have a historical museum.

Professional staff is rare. Most county museums operate entirely on volunteer help, but the intent is clear: Collect artifacts and records from "the old days" so our children and future generations will be able to see how their ancestors lived.

Financial support is provided through dues, fundraisers and contributions. Some museums are financed with a county or city mill levy or monthly support. The Nemaha County Museum receives water and electricity free from the city and \$950 annually from the county. Clearly that is not enough to meet monthly needs. NCHS is seeking sponsorships to meet these needs.

### Museum's Monthly Needs

Gas Service.....	\$31.17
Internet Service.....	\$42.17
Website.....	\$50.00
Contract Labor.....	\$208.00
Telephone.....	\$39.02
Supplies.....	\$75.00
Maintenance.....	\$100.00
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$545.36</b>
<b>Window Restoration</b>	
Per window.....	\$1000.00
<b>38 windows</b>	



## LLEWELLYN CASTLE, by John T. Bristow (1931), Part 3

Most of the English colonists at Llewellyn Castle were tradesmen, sent over in 1870 to establish an English Colony and to superintend fencing the lands.

George Cox, a carpenter, was one of those tradesmen. And, very much to the nerriment of the Kansas natives, he did that fencing in the dead of winter, when the ground was frozen. The postholes he and his countrymen dug that winter cost the English Company one dollar each. Such frozen assets were, of course, conducive to the downfall of the Company.

But George Cox was not the fool that his ice-bound fence would indicate. The real fault was on the other side of the big pond. The Company sent Cox over here in mid-winter to build a fence. He was without funds. The larder of Llewellyn Castle was low, distressingly low. And his brother Englishmen needed immediate succor. There was money for George Cox only when he worked. And he couldn't afford to put in all his time that blizzard, snowbound winter hanging onto the coat-tail of one of his brother countrymen while the bunch of them played ring-round-the-stove in that old Colony house to keep from freezing, as he once told me he was compelled to do. So, then, what was really wrong with George's congealed fence idea?

Like other Englishmen, after coming here, George Cox had a lot to learn. He was the complainant in a lawsuit involving the ownership of a cow. John J. Ingalls was attorney for Theodore Wolfley, the defendant. The illustrious John J. queried, "What color was your cow, Mr. Cox?"

"Bay," said George. The court laughed, and told Cox to try again.

"Well," said George, "I 'ave a bay 'orse, and my cow 's the same color as my bay 'orse."

And then it got worse, from over the seas, came the jovial Mr. Murray, clothed in authority and a super abundance of ego, English to the core. He had been sent over here to make an audit of the Company's estate. Murray stopped first at Wetmore and partook freely of Johnny Clifton's "alf-and-alf." He was a free spender and made friends here readily.

In pursuance of his duties, Mr. Murray said to those Colony delinquents, "Wots the jolly old idea of all this reticence? Hits most happallin! I want to see the books, by-jove."

One of those derelicts exclaimed with a little more mirth than was becoming, "I-si, just listen to 'im, fellow! Wants to see the books, 'e does! That's rich! Si, mister we don't keep henny books!"

Then in unison they shot words at Mr. Murray which were the same as "You get the hell out of here." Murray demurred, and not having read the storm signals quite right, bellowed, "Ave a care! Want that I should report you for this hincolence? Hits very hunwise for you to hact this vy!"

But when the old shotgun was brought out from the hiding place an awful doubt of his own wisdom assailed the jovial Mr. Murray. Those true sons of Briton actually chased the auditor away with a shotgun.

In employing the hit-and-miss English words here I am relaying them to you as best I can from memory as I caught them from one, maybe two, of the original six, many, many years ago. The quoted words are not my own. If you could have know the men and apply either the Stovell or Radford pronunciation and accent, you would improve it a lot. And don't forget to speed up a little.

(To be continued in February 2010 newsletter)

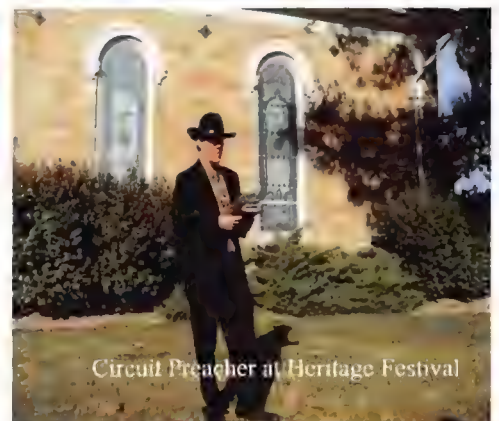
### WEBSITE NOTES:

**NCHS receives several inquiries each week for research, pictures and documents. We are pleased to meet these requests through our Past Perfect computer program. Often the activity results in photos and additional information for our archives.**

**From Arkansas:** I was recently searching for a family member on the Kansas GenWeb site for Nemaha County and found the following link:

<http://files.usqwarchives.org/ks/nemaha/military/granarmy.txt>

It discusses the Grand Army of the Republic and some of the members of the George Graham Post No. 92 from Nemaha. Towards the bottom it mentions some photos of the GAR that are hanging in the hallways of your museum. My GGG Grandfather, Philip Kuhn, was a member of this organization and is listed as being in one of these photos (dated 13 July 1882). I am writing to see if you may have this photo as part of your digital collection. I live in Arkansas and am not able to get to your location any time soon, but it would be wonderful to see the face of this ancestor! Any help you could provide would be greatly appreciated.





**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

113 North 6th Street  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, Kansas 66538  
Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
E-Mail: [nchs@rainbowtel.net](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net)  
DarlAnn Rial—Editor 785-294-1174

**[ We're On The Web! ]**  
[www.nemahacountyhistorical.com](http://www.nemahacountyhistorical.com)

● **Nemaha County  
Historical Society, Inc.**

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**Steinlage, Mary  
7148 Settle St.  
Kelly, KS 66538-2663  
2008-2009**

**Nemaha County Historical Society**      **Date: Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_**

**2009-2010 Registration Form**

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 66538

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H) \$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (Life) \$200.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership \$50.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution-Memorial or Recognition of _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund _____	

**Number of Memberships:** ☐ New ☐ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ *Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization.  
Contributions are tax-deductible.*

## REMEMBER THE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Nemaha County Historical Society is grateful to those who have remembered the museum by making contributions to the endowment fund. This can be done with individual contributions and through estate planning. This fund has grown each year. Hopefully some day this fund will provide total support to the museum without constant fundraisers.

Memorials to Judge James O'Conner and Leslie A. Droge have been received. This money is used in operating the museum or in improvements unless otherwise designated.

Appreciation to Leonard Ronnebaum for a recent financial contribution. Mr. Ronnebaum was also the source for the ample supply of garden fresh tomatoes used to make 100 jars of Heritage Chutney, available at Heritage Days 2007.

"Thinking of You" Contributions have been received in honor of Naomi Turner, Les and Lola Droge and Mary Ann York.

M. A. York has been hospitalized in Macon, GA following an automobile accident. The family has requested that cards be sent to York's daughter's house at the following address: M. A. York % Lisa Hartley, 3200 Oak Valley Drive, Lisella, GA 31052

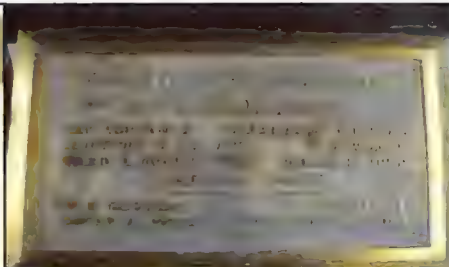
## SOUP DAY

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.  
Fundraiser

**Thursday, March 13**

Vegetable Beef Soup  
Chili, Ham and Beans Soup  
Cornbread, Relishes, Sandwich  
Dessert and Drink  
Free Will Offering

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Appreciation  
To The Nemaha Valley USD 442  
School Board who recently donated three bronze plaques from the Seneca Grade School which burned in March 2007. The museum has accessioned the bronze displays and will add them to the school room.

## SEEKING INFORMATION

Rosemary Garber, 25 79th V Rd, Sabetha, KS 66534 is seeking a picture of the Eclipse School, Number 90 in Gilman Township. Call 785-284-3237 if you can help her.

Neil Hall, 1009 Dodge Street, Bedford, Iowa 50833 needs information about Iscah Elnora (Nora) Redden Yates who died on March, 1908 in Red Vermillion area shortly after birth of twins. Contact: neilal@frontiernet.net.

Melissa Blackman, KC, KS is looking for information on ancestors in Nemaha County around 1870. (roseladym@yahoo.com)

Dale M. Eisele (Brick974@aol.com) collects bricks and is trying to find & buy one stamped with SENECA from the Seneca Brick and Tile Co.

Ashley Penner: Manhattan seniors will be paying a visit to Seneca on May 8th. Can you help?

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Naomi Turner's address :  
Apostolic Christian Home,  
511 Paramount,  
Sabetha, KS 66534

Watch for Heritage Days 2008 information in the next six months and win outstanding prizes.

## BUGGY DAYS



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Located on

Seneca Historic Main Street



## EARLY RAILROADS ACROSS NEMAHA COUNTY

### BY RAY T. INGALLS (CONTINUED)

Seneca and every other community were entirely dependent on railroads, not only for travel, but every bit of the goods or merchandise received or livestock and farm products sent out, was sent by rail. Until 1908, as a subscription solicitor for the Seneca Courier-Democrat, I visited the towns of Kelly, Baileyville and Oneida every Monday. A through passenger train from Virginia City, Nebraska to Kansas City left for Kelly about 11:30, and the return train to Baileyville came through shortly before one o'clock. A Grand Island passenger went east from Baileyville to Oneida before two o'clock. Number 13, a local freight train was scheduled west bound shortly after four o'clock. The freight used a passenger coach instead of a caboose and all of the trains were usually crowded. Newspapers were issued script or mileage coupons for local travel and we made application for tickets to longer distances. In 1903 and 1904, I spent two weeks summer vacation on the farm of an uncle near Grandview, Missouri, and rode the night Grand Island by way of St. Joe to the old Union Pacific depot at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wyandotte in Kansas City, Missouri.

For some years, the west bound Grand Island passenger train that arrived in Seneca during the noon hour, stopped and took lunch here at the Guilford Hotel. There was a platform just north of the tracks on the west side of the crossing south of the hotel. This was during the years when Spence Adsit managed the Guilford in the early 90's and was passenger agent for the St. Joseph and Grand Island.

The Topeka and Northwestern incorporated in 1904, and in 1906, built a railroad from the Union Pacific of Mencken, west of Topeka, thirty-seven and one half miles to Oneida, to connect with another Union Pacific line, the Leavenworth Kansas and Western, which ran from Leavenworth to Miltonvale. The Union Pacific bought the line in 1908 and finished the railroad on to Marysville, and began operating trains to Marysville in 1909. This was the cut-off that took much of the volume from the Grand Island railroad long before auto and truck hauling had just about put the finish to many railroads.

Topeka and Northwestern was the last railroad construction in this part of the state. The people near the station of Duluth in Pottawatomie County, and Lilia in Marshall County, had dreams of their towns becoming a metropolis. Duluth never got off the ground, but Lilia prospered as a country town for some years, until it followed the demise of other small towns. The remarkable improvement in earth moving equipment that has taken place in the twentieth century is nothing short of phenomenal. I was working as foreman in a newspaper office at Wetmore when the Onaga-Marysville road bed was made. Horses and mules were used. Most of the earth work had been completed in 1908, but one extra high fill, north of Wheaton, was proving a bugbear to the contractor. Some of you may know the high fill, a mile north of the old Graff family cemetery. A high and narrow viaduct bisects the fill on a township road. The type of soil at this point did not seem to settle or pack, and the contractor had to bake or burn the earth before it became solid. I visited the site in the fall of 1908 and saw them burying some horses and mules that had given up the ghost, in the center of the base. Next spring, on a Sunday afternoon, we drove a team and buggy out to watch the progress, and found that the carcasses of the animals had squashed out to the side of the right of way. They reported the contractor lost his shirt on this job.

In a recent issue of the Kansas Historical Quarterly is a lengthy story told of the tribulations of the old Kansas South and Gulf Railroad, an eight mile railroad that operated between Blaine and Westmoreland from 1899 to 1918. Joe and I recently ate dinner in Westmoreland had a visit with some of the old timers, including Charlie Cree, furniture and funeral director, who served as conductor on the line as a young man, and Christ Moore and Cloyd Lee, of the bank, about early day events.

The rail route from Seneca to Westmoreland was the Kansas City Northwestern, to Circleville or Holton, the Leavenworth Kansas and Western to Elaine, and the Kansas Southern and Gulf to Westmoreland. I made the trip back to Seneca many times. Father Patrick Smith, a native of Nemaha County and a friend of mine, was parish priest at Elaine. He was busy building the new Church so I made frequent trips for newspaper report on the church's progress. "Old Betsy", the ex-Rock Island locomotive No. 218, was still functioning on the eight mile railroad and had a combination passenger-baggage coach, two boxcars, three flatcars and a coal car that was becoming somewhat time worn. During the latter part of my stay at Westmoreland, Old Betsy finally gave up the ghost and for a time Westmoreland was without rail facilities. The short line had consistently lost money and was heavily in debt. Westmoreland, in the geographical center of Pottawatomie County, had won a twenty year fight with Louisville for the County Seat and the railroad was a big part of their argument. Charley Morris, an extensive farm and former sheriff, came forward with civic interest and purchased equity in the defunct business in 1912. He first fitted a 1907 White Steamer automobile with railroad trucks in front, and driver wheels on the rear, to fit the rails. With an enclosed trailer this took care of the passengers. Next he purchased a new Mitchell car and fitted it for use on the rails. The Mitchell pulled four hay rack size freight trailers and such as the equipment was given fairly good service. There was a side track and depot at Moodyville, midway of the line, and a recreation center with small lake, fishing and picnic facilities at Moodyville Springs that brought many summer passengers. There were also stops at Siddns, Richards, Whitley's and Roach crossings. (to be continued)

*From January 17, 1963*

*Rotary Club speech given by Ray T. Ingalls, a former editor of the Goff Advance newspaper.*

**NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.**

113 North 6th  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366

NCHS Email: [nchs@carsoncomm.com](mailto:nchs@carsoncomm.com)

**Mary Steinlage**  
**7148 Settle St.**  
**Kelly, KS 66538-2663**  
**2008**

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Seneca, KS 66538

Nemaha County Historical Society

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**2007-2008 Registration Form**

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 66538

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H)	\$10.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (L)	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership (B)	\$25.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution(Memorial or Recognition of _____)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____	

Number of Memberships:        New        Renewal       

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ *Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization.  
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May—June—July, 2008

# PIONEER PRESS

Volume 25 , Issue 4



## Traveling Straw Art Exhibit

**Celebrate  
NCHS'S  
30th Birthday  
on  
Sunday  
May 18, 2008  
2:00—4:00pm  
Refreshments**

**TOUR  
MUSEUM**

**View Wheat  
Weavers  
Straw Art  
Display**

**Burger Annex I**



The Nemaha County Historical Society is pleased to announce the Golden Weaves of Grain Traveling Exhibit will be on display at the Nemaha County Historical Museum, 113 North 6th Street, for a month starting on May 15th, 2008.

The display consists of over 200 art pieces. The items are created and developed by members of the Kansas Associating of Straw Artists (KASA), founded in 1997 to preserve and promote the ancient art of plaiting and decorative use of wheat straw. Wheat weaving is an ancient art used over 8,000 years ago in Egypt. It almost died out because of the mechanization of harvesting, but in 1958 Alec Coker, a retired BBC engineer, revived the ancient art in England. Doris Johnson, Luray, Kansas revived wheat weaving in Kansas. Please come and view the exhibit.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Kansas Sampler Manhattan Tourists	May 3-4 May 8
NCHS Board Mtg. Heritage Days Mtg.	May 13 May 14
Straw Exhibit Birthday Bash Annual Mtg.	May 15 May 18 June 10
Pony Express Re-ride & Bar-B-Q	June 27
Hwy 36 Treasures	Sept 19-21
Reorganization Mtg.	July 8
Heritage Days	Oct 4-5

### In Memory

**Naomi D. Turner**

**Board of Trustee  
Member**

**Secretary -  
Treasurer—10 years**

**1926-2008**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Nemaha County  
Historical Museum  
Open  
May - September  
Monday—Saturday  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.

**Board of Trustees meeting  
Tuesday, May 13, 2008  
7 pm**

**Burger Annex I at 113  
North 6th Street,  
Seneca, Kansas.**

**The public is invited.**

### Kansas Sampler Festival

**Sat, May 3  
10 am -5 pm**

**Sun., May 4  
1 am -4 pm**

**\$5—adults \$3-kids  
Concordia City Park  
Concordia, KS**

## Lake Pillars Accepted

The Nemaha County Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review approved the nomination of the Lake Nemaha Dam Guardrail Pillars to the National Register of Historic Places at their meeting on February 23, 2008 in Topeka, Kansas.

The nomination has been forwarded to the office of the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C. where it will be evaluated by their professional staff. If they concur with the findings of the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review, the property will be granted inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places sometime in May. This property, located 5.12 miles south of Seneca on Highway 63, in Nemaha County is now protected under the Kansas Historic Preservation Act.

## Update on M.A. York

Board member Mary York was injured in an automobile accident in Macon, GA on January 1, 2008. According to Rhonda York, daughter-in-law of Mary Ann York, there is Good News! They are slowly weaning M.A. off the ventilator. She can handle breathing on her own. Please pray that she continues to do well on her own.

Letters and cards of encouragement can be sent to Mary Ann at the following address:

Mary Ann York  
Madonna Rehab  
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Lincoln, NE 68506

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## DR. THOMAS H. WILEMAN

EARLY NEMAHA COUNTY SETTLER

Harry and Donna McDaniel, Ozawie, KS recently visited the museum looking for information on Harry's great grandfather - Dr. Thomas H. Wileman (1829-1911). Upon returning home they were inspired to dig into boxes of keepsakes from Harry's Great Aunt Mabel Wileman. One box provided a gold mine of information including the obituaries of Thomas and his wife Lizzie (1849-1912).



Information found in the box also included information on Seneca people who were friends of Mabel's. It appears her best friend was Dora Adriance, Newspaper editor. Mabel later moved to Blue Rapids and lived there for many years after leaving Seneca, but evidently stayed in close contact with friends in Seneca. She was a dress-maker.

Dr. Wileman served as assistant surgeon with the 147th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers. He returned to Tazewell County, Ill, and his medical practice. Due to poor health, Dr. Wileman left his practice after thirty years and moved his family to Nebraska, then to Nemaha County and purchased a farm near Old Lincoln School (Kamper) in 1888. Two years later he purchased property in Seneca, worked in his garden and occasionally made trips downtown. He and Lizzie raised three daughters: Bessie, Mabel and Fannie.

Fannie Wileman, Harry McDaniel's grandmother, was a school teacher. Fannie was 25 when her parents, Thomas and Lizzie, died. Since Mabel was single and 37 she "looked after" Fannie. Fannie married Robert Clyde Walters in 1918 and died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1919 when Harry's mother (Marjorie) was 2 weeks old. Marjorie was raised by her grandparents, B.F. and Maggie Walters, Wetmore. The other Wileman sister, Bessie, married W. Milton Monteith of Blue Rapids. The photos are available at the museum for viewing.



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Seneca Historic Main Street



## EARLY RAILROADS ACROSS NEMAHA COUNTY

### BY RAY T. INGALLS (Part 3—Final)

Like all short lines that had to compete with the large railroad companies, the path of the Kansas City Northwestern was not rosy, and many unfortunate mistakes added to the tribulations of operation. One of the first calamities that hit the road (this railroad) was the ill-advised location of their shops and roundhouse in Kansas City, Kansas. I do not know how familiar you folks are with Kansas City, Kansas, but we attended the sixth grade of school there and were one of a large crowd of boys that used the abandoned roundhouse and shop buildings as a Saturday rendezvous. I saw first hand the terrific and complete loss. The company built a mile of double side-track from the present intercity viaduct north along the Kansas side of the Missouri river to about even with Garfield Avenue, with the buildings at the north. From the first the location was too low and even ordinary high water covered them. This left them with limited sidetrack facilities in the Armourdale district and the old Cypress yards, and it became necessary to use shop and roundhouse service from other companies. It also required that they add a boiler-maker and helper, also Dave Waymire as car repairman to their Seneca payroll. There was no one of the previous industrial development north of the intercity viaduct line on the Missouri side. High banks of sand that had been dredged out of the Missouri river were covered with a heavy growth of willow trees, and as boys we roamed all over that district. It was not until 1900 that the Main Brewing Company established their brewery there as the first industry and established Heim Park. Afterwards Heim Park became the municipal Electric Park and was moved out to the south. Except for the number of years when the Missouri Pacific operated the Kansas City Northwestern, the small independent line had difficulty getting the high ball into the old Union Station promptly. Many patrons learned to drop off at the old Fifth Street depot in Kansas City, Kansas and take a street car to the Missouri side.

St. Joseph had not yet become the live stock center that it is today and most of the live stock from Seneca was shipped over the Kansas City Northwestern to Kansas City. Outbound car lot and local freight came through best over the Kansas route, and in addition to one through, on a local freight train, each way daily, it required many extra trains to take care of the business, and there was always an entire crew or two that found lodging in "Aunt Mary" Byrnes and West End Boarding houses. It would be just a little difficult today to picture Seneca as a rail road town, but it was just that for nearly three decades. More than fifty families received their livelihood from the railroads, and as all travel and commerce depended on train schedules, switch shanty gossip was a favorite topic. There were three telegraphers and Western union linemen, railway clerks, Grand Island section crews and pumping station operator, always a complete extra train crew of two, and company officials often stationed in Seneca, as a division point.

Their world was a mighty small one to most folks in the country towns and villages of over a half century ago, and trains crews their best contact with the outside world. This was most forcibly impressed on me in making several trips on the local outbound daylight freight from Kansas City. Stations averaged about one every ten miles along the route and it required twenty minutes, or more, at each station for the conductor and three brakemen to unload the many items of freight. There was always a small crowd of local citizens at the depot and many of them pitched in and helped unload. Many of them knew the engine and train crew by their first name and there was a lot of friendly conversation and questions on what was going on in the world.

Death is never a pleasant experience and the death of a railroad from losing its life blood to auto travel and truck hauling, no less sad and painful. The last train ran over the line on November 1, 1919. There had been a multitude of emergency plans and "shots in the arm" to keep it alive, but they all failed and many men who had devoted their lives to its service were left stranded. There were many heroes who gave their utmost in an effort to save the railroad from oblivion, but time and change were as inevitable as death and taxes. A real tragedy to the community occurred on June 17, 1915, when a flash flood on Rock Creek caught the White Steamer and trailer, and washed them into the current. Charley Morris, his son Guy and John Gunter, Westmoreland druggist, were drowned. Five others were able to grasp tree limbs, and were later rescued. With the loss of equipment, operators and a washed out track, service was discontinued. George Richard's son, another civic minded citizen, bought the Morris family's equity to the line, added an converted an International truck, and service struggled along until 1918, when auto travel and highway trucking made further use of the line unnecessary.

The Central Branch through the southern towns of Nemaha County, now a part of the Missouri Pacific system, was built by the Union Pacific. As early as 1863, the road was proposed and surveyed. It received greater financial aid from the federal government than any line built in Kansas. It was granted \$16,000 a mile for the 100 miles from Atchison to Waterville, and in addition, alternate sections of land, on either side of the right of way, and the territories back of those sections. It did not need, nor receive, any aid from the counties. The road was completed to Wetmore in 1866, and to the present site of Centralia, the next year. Like the Grand Island, the Central Branch gave a main line service for many years under the Missouri Pacific management. With through night Pullman trains, from Downs to Kansas City and excellent day passenger service before the days of auto travel. The road has always prospered, and is still one of the most profitable branches in the Missouri Pacific system. Today the line carries almost a fifth of the Kansas wheat crop and like amounts of corn and grain sorghums. In the hey day of railroading the daylight passengers stopped at the Van Noy eating house in Goff, for meals and many freight crews were served the box lunches supplied for through trains.

Three complete freight crews, a passenger crew, including a mail clerk and baggage man, a section crew, depot agent and telegraphers, and a half dozen employees at the coal chutes, pumping station, roundhouse (located where Ed Lierz's home now stands), all made their home in Seneca. Railroad men married Seneca girls: Johnny Cain married Teresa Murphy, an aunt of Caroline Rooney; Billy Foreman married my oldest sister; Ed Taylor married Edith Harsh; Nick Parnell married Alice Heath; Jim Dickinson to Nell Kerns; Fred Dunlap to Louise Fuller; and many others and all became a real part of Seneca. The railroad paid well and was by the largest boost in Seneca economy.

*From January 17, 1963 Rotary Club speech given by Ray T. Ingalls, a former editor of the Goff Advance newspaper.*

**The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.  
membership will vote on the following recom-  
mended By-Law changes at the  
Annual Meeting on June 10, 2008.**

Nemaha County Historical Society, Incorporated  
As Amended May 22, 1998

**ARTICLE II, OBJECTIVES:**

Last paragraph, next to last line: Reads now: "and by using the media of radio and television to awaken public interest."

Change to: "and by using all appropriate media now existing or any developed in the future to awaken public interest."

**ARTICLE VI ,DUES:**

SECTION 1. Reads now: "Annual dues for individual active members shall be established by the Board of Directors."

Change to: "Annual dues for individual members shall be established by the Board of Directors and voted on by the members at a regular meeting of the Society."

SECTION 2: Reads now: "Dues for Life members shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00) each, payable in one payment."

Change to: "Dues for Life members shall be established by the Board of Directors and voted on by the members at a regular meeting of the Society."

SECTION 3. Change to SECTION 4. and add new SECTION 3. to read: "Annual dues for Business Members shall be established by the Board of Directors and voted on by the members at a regular meeting of the Society."

SECTION 4. Reads now as Section 3: with no change.

SECTION 5. Add to read, "Any member whose name has been dropped from the roster shall be reinstated upon payment of the full amount of current annual dues until June 30 of such fiscal year."

SECTION 6. Change to: "When memorial contributions of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) or more are made to the Nemaha County Historical Society, Incorporated, in memory of a deceased person, a Memorial Membership Certificate shall be issued, and the name of the deceased person shall be placed on the Museum Memorial Plaque."

**ARTICLE VII, FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

SECTION 1. Change to: "The fiscal year shall commence on the first day of July and shall end on the 30th day of June of the following year."

**ARTICLE IX, ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

SECTION 1. Omit "by ballot", Change SECTION 1 to read, "Directors shall be elected individually and by a plurality of votes cast at the Annual Meeting."



**The Annual Soup Day fundraiser was held on Thursday, March 13, 2008. The Officers and Directors of the Nemaha County Historical Society thank the 300 plus supporters who helped & donated food and \$1325.00 for operating the museum.**

**Letter of Appreciation**

Thank you so much for guiding our party through the Museum. Since 1975 my wife Elizabeth Smith Gilman and I have been coming to Nemaha County to visit her sister, Ruth Swart. I did not know of this county jail. Since I am a history buff, I had to visit the bean feed (soup day) and tour the museum. We all had a good time and learned a lot from the items of the past.

**Best Wishes, Phil Gilman (Topeka)**

**INFORMATION NEEDED:**

A Knights of Columbus saber was left at the entrance of the NCHS museum this winter. It would be helpful to know the source of the donation. If you donated the saber or know who did, please call the museum at 785-336-6366.

Annual membership dues of \$10 .00 per person and a lifetime individual membership is \$200. A business (corporate) membership is \$25 per year and entitles the business with an ad in the quarterly newsletter.

The current 2007-2008 membership year ends on June 30 with 2008-2009 memberships due after July 1, 2008.

The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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## PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION—LONG RANGE PLAN

## NEMAHA COUNTY JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE

The Heritage Trust Fund Grant received by the Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. in 2006 provided a long-range preservation and restoration plan for the historic jail and sheriff's residence which serves as the Nemaha County Historical Museum. The plan for the extension of the life of this historic building will guide future Board of Directors for generations to come and is available at the museum for public review.

Site Feature	Work Focus
Sub-grade Drainage *Pending*	Around Jail & Residence to NE property corner
Accessibility *Pending*	Sidewalk from handicapped parking to Annex I—two interior ramps
West & South Porch *Pending*	Terrazzo porch floor, reset porch rail, carpentry repairs for porch beam, painting, grading and landscaping
Brick exterior walls	Re-point all bricks, replace cracked bricks, repair cracks
Carpentry	Repair cut joists, install beam where wall removed on first floor
Windows (30)	Restore all windows, provide storm windows
Interior Spaces	Parlor-refinish floor ; Stair hall-restore ceiling; Half bath-refinish; Stairs-install wall handrails; Kitchen, Entry, Sheriff's Office, Tower Rooms— repair & paint plaster ceilings; Tower Room Restore to period Bathroom
Mechanical System	Heating & Cooling systems
Electrical System	New 200 amp service & distribution system
Plumbing System	Replace galvanized supply piping and water heater
Reconstruction	Reconstruct south tower top to match original
Elevator	Lula elevator shaft and equipment

A 2006 Hertiage Trust Fund grant award of \$30,800.00 plus NCHS matching funds paid for Phase I of the porch restoration project.  
It included:

Structural Review	\$6,700.00
Consultant	\$4,000.00
Soil Survey	\$4,000.00
Preservation Plan	\$7,000.22
Porch Stabilization	\$17,040.00
Contingency	\$2,800.00
Total Project	<u>\$41,540.22</u>
Grant Funds	<u>\$30,800.00</u>
NCHS funds	<u>\$10,740.22</u>

A grant application has been filed for Phase II of the Porch Restoration Project.

Total Project Cost **\$ 38,450.00**

If Phase II is funded, the grant will complete repair to the front (west and south) porch, provide proper drainage for the building and ADA compliant handicapped parking and accessible routes into the museum.

The Nemaha County Historical Society agreed to launch a fundraising campaign to provide museum operating costs and building improvements at their quarterly meeting on February 12, 2008.

The campaign began with the sale of tax credits issued by the Kansas State Historical Society and verified by the Kansas Department of Revenue for Heritage Trust Fund grant construction. The board agreed to sell \$3800 tax credits to any interested party and can be used beginning with Kansas Tax Year 2007. Unused credits can be carried over for the next ten years.

**NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.**

113 North 6th  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS 66538



Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
Editor Email: dsrial@carsoncomm.com

NCHS Email: nchs@carsoncomm.com

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NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

August—September–October, 2008

# PIONEER PRESS

Volume 26 , Issue 1  
Published Quarterly

The Bancroft Depot Museum  
is open on Sunday from 2-4  
p.m. through September.



## Kansas Straw Artists Draws Crowds To NCHS Museum



Photo Courtesy of Anne Moser

The two hundred piece Kansas Association of Straw Artists collection of wheat weavings drew over one hundred guests to the Nemaha County Museum during May and June, doubling the normal flow of visitors. The display served as a backdrop for the 30th birthday celebration of the museum, the NCHS annual meeting and the Nemaha County Republican Women's membership luncheon. The officers and directors of the historical society appreciate the opportunity to share the handiwork with the community and look forward to a return visit from the Straw Artists next summer.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

NCHS Board Mtg. Heritage Days	Aug. 12 Aug. 13
Hwy 36 Treasures at museum Century of Trains- Holton	Sept 19-21 Sept–Oct. 26
Heritage Days	Oct 4-5
NCHS Board Mtg. NCHS Board Mtg.	Nov. 11 Feb. 10
Soup Day	Mar. 19
NCHS Board Mtg. Annual Mtg.	May 12 June 9
Reorganization Mtg.	July 14

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Ann York continues  
to improve and receives  
her mail at the  
Ambassador,  
Room 524,  
4405 Normal Blvd.,  
Lincoln, NE 68506.

### Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

Board of Trustees meeting  
Tuesday, August 12, 2008  
7 pm

Burger Annex I at  
113 North 6th Street,  
Seneca, Kansas.

The public is invited.

### A Century of Trains in Jackson County, KS

Saturdays 10–12:00  
Sundays 2–4 pm  
through October 26

Suggested Donation—\$2

Roebke Memorial Museum  
216 New York Ave.  
Holton, KS

### In Memory

**Marjorie I. Allison**



Charter Member

1918–2008



## Museum Awarded HTF 2008 Grant

The Nemaha County Historical Society was awarded \$24,000 in Heritage Trust Fund Grant funds for Phase II of the front porch restoration project to the historic museum. The grant will not cover accessibility into the museum, but will complete the porch railing stabilization, Terrazzo flooring, carpentry repairs for porch beam, painting, grading, new steps and drainage.

**Historic Designation:** It used to be owning a property on the National Register of Historic Places meant owning a Queen Anne Victorian or a Tudor Revival.

Now, it means almost any building built before 1958.

While the historic designation used to bring prestige, now it can also bring money -- specifically tax credits for improvement.

**Tax Credits:** Owners of historically designated properties can receive up to 25 percent of their home-improvement investment back as state tax credit. Non-profit, 501c3 organizations can receive up to 35 percent of the improvement investment back as a state tax credit. These tax credits can then be sold to interested individuals or businesses for up to 100% of the value and used toward state tax bills for ten years. Recently, **the Nemaha County Historical Society claimed and sold \$3,879.00 tax credits to the Community National Bank**, Seneca, Kansas for the qualifying work done to restore the front porch of the historic Jail and Sheriff's Residence which serves as the Nemaha County Historical Museum

**Grants & Loans:** Buildings that are listed on the Register of Historic Places also can qualify for state grants and in some cities qualify for programs that offer low-interest loans with varying rates. Wichita offers loans up to \$5,000 for exterior work on homes; those loans don't have to be paid back until the property changes hands. The program in Wichita has been so popular; the money ran out in February. Next year's funding could be renewed this month.

Currently, there are more than 100 structures in Nemaha County that qualify. One such owner who has a home listed on the Kansas Registry of Historic Places recently used tax credits for roof replacement and plans to claim them for window replacements. Buildings within the Seneca Main Street Historic District that qualify as historic must sit within an area from 6th Street to 3rd Street.

**To qualify**, a property must be at least 50 years old and retain many elements of its architectural style. In some towns and cities, a Historic Preservation Board has been established to review and approve work on the property. Qualifying property owners can paint the house any color they want, add a storm door and probably put up a wood privacy fence, but it must retain its primary characteristics. You can't change the architectural style of a house -- from ranch style to Colonial, for instance. You can build an addition, but the exterior materials should match the original structure. Some changes -- such as vinyl siding or vinyl windows -- are enough to keep some houses from qualifying. The interiors, such as kitchens and bathrooms can still be modernized.

**Kansas law** requires that the state historic preservation officer be notified of any proposed project on a listed property and to offer a recommendation on the potential effect on its historical integrity. Having a property on a historic register should also mean working with a local Historic Preservation Board, an advisory body that oversees preservation projects. Wamego has such a board whose staff provides information on financial incentives and technical help maintaining properties. Most historic property owners aren't concerned about possible restrictions, they want to preserve their buildings for the future generations.

*Adapted from Wichita Eagle story written by Becky Tanner.*

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**Seneca Historic Main Street**



## A Cave Containing Skeleton Discovered

From Seneca Courier-Democrat, Nemaha County, KS., Friday, July 22, 1892

J.W. Hughes, who is rapidly destroying the business of bridge building in the county by constructing bridges that neither wear out nor wash out, discovered while driving piling on Vermillion creek north of Centralia, what proved to be an unknown cave. While at work some farmer's dogs chased a wolf past the place where Mr. Hughes and his men were at work. Hearing the dogs barking, they concluded that they must have cornered the wolf, and going up to where the dogs were surrounding what to them appeared to be a wolf's den. Mr. Hughes immediately procured a lantern for the purpose of locating the wolf, but when the light was lowered it could be readily seen that the supposed wolf's den was a cave or cavern that receded from the opening some ninety or one hundred feet. Mr. Hughes like Israel Putman took a heavy club and entered the cave for the purpose of driving the wolf out so the dogs might catch it as it came out. He had proceeded but a short distance when the wolf attempted to dash past him for the opening, but as it did so Mr. Hughes struck it a blow over the head that made Miss Wolf exceedingly groggy, and swipe number two caused the shadow of death to pass over the wolflet's domicile. Mr. Hughes began to examine the cave. The cave was over 50 feet wide and 90 feet long and the height of the ceiling about 20 feet. Making some torches, Mr. Hughes and his men began to examine the cave. A huge rock weighing some four hundred pounds was rolled and under it was found a tin box about eighteen inches square and locked with an old fashioned padlock. The clasp was easily broken and the box was found to contain some papers and letters, and about three dollars worth of silver coins of some foreign country, most of the coins were dated 1722 with an inscription in Latin. The letters were excepting one so faded that it was impossible to read them. The one that was legible was a receipt for money paid for a slave, and read as follows:

*Jamestown, VA, March 12, 1729.*

*Received from Capt. Abel Morris eight hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco for one colored man 19 years old and named "Dick." Y*

*Your humble servant, Sir. Henry Rupert*

In the back part of the cave was discovered the skeleton of a man beside which lay an old Prussian dueling pistol. An old sword nearly eaten up with rust lay only a few feet away from the skeleton. The sword was taken from the scabbard and on the still bright blade of the sword was a family crest, under which was engraved the name of Ludwig Rupert. The news of the discovery soon spread.

Mr. A. J. Birchfield, editor of the Centralia Journal, who used to ride pony express is an expert on coins, and enthusiast on family crests soon visited the cave and examined the coins and crest and pronounced the coins the same as issued by the Prussian Government at the times of the dates of the coins. The crest was that of a rich Nobleman of Prussia during the beginning of the eighteenth century who made an immense fortune from a patent medicine for the sure cure of la grippe. Mr. Hughes has the coins and sword in his possession being his right of discovery.

—clipping from Donald Holthaus Collection

The old German name of Ruppert was Hroudprecht or Hruodbert meaning "Of Glorious Renown" The name was in Germany as early as 696, when Bishop Suf-fragan Rupert, was sent to Salzburg, Germany from Worms on the Rhine by Duke Theodo 11 as a Missionary. Bishop Rupert founded the Monastery of St. Peter. He also founded the Benedictine Abbey on the Nonnberg. Bishop Rupert died March 27, 718. Actually the Rupert name has been around from Otto 1 house of Wittlebach of Bavaria.

**Hernly** ASSOCIATES, Inc.

Preservation Architects

920 Massachusetts Street, Suite 2

Lawrence, Kansas 66044-2868

Ph. 785.749.5806

# NEMAHA COUNTY HERITAGE DAYS TREASURE HUNT 2008

## AUGUST 26 – OCTOBER 2

[www.senecadowntown.com](http://www.senecadowntown.com)



Entries can be printed from the [www.senecadowntown.com](http://www.senecadowntown.com) (Heritage Days link) website or picked up from any merchant or one of five locations:

Nemaha County Historical Museum, 113 North 6<sup>th</sup>,

Pony Express Museum, 325 Main Street, Seneca, KS

Seneca Downtown Impact Office, 522 Main,

Seneca Chamber Office, 531 Main Street, Seneca, KS

Nemaha County Courthouse, Register of Deeds Office, Seneca, KS

Each week for five weeks, a clue will be provided on the Seneca Downtown Impact website and printed in the Courier-Tribune newspaper. One letter in the answer to each week's clue will form the word which provides the final clue to the location of the treasure. Could this be a part of the fabled Richmond Buried Treasure? Each week, the completed entry forms will be deposited in the ballot box at the Nemaha County Historical Museum or sent by mail to Heritage Hunt 2008, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas, 66538. Winning entries will be determined each of the five weeks and announced each week in the Courier-Tribune newspaper. Names of winners will also be posted each week on the front window of Seneca Downtown Impact Office. Each week's winner is eligible for a final drawing on October 4, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. for a weekend get-away at Nemaha Bed and Breakfast prize package.

### Nemaha County Heritage Days 2008

#### Heritage Hunt Entry Form

o Week One: August 26

o Week Two: September 2

o Week Three: September 9

o Week Four: September 16

o Week Five: September 23

o Drawing - October 4

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_



Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.  
**2008-2009 Administrative Board**

**Officers:**

President: Anita Heiman  
 Vice-President: Richard Schmitz  
 Secretary-Treasurer: DarlAnn Rial

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 Frances Davis Dean Rial  
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Assistants: Joyce Olberding & Theresa Hutfles

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### Time To Pay Membership Dues

2008-2009 Annual Membership Fees of \$10 per person are due now. A lifetime individual membership costs \$200. A business membership is \$25 per year and entitles the business to an ad in the quarterly newsletter.

Check your mailing label for Membership Expiration Date.

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

### 2008-2009 Registration Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, KS 66538

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H)	\$10.00/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (L)	\$200.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership (B)	\$25.00/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution (Memorial or Recognition of _____)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____		

Number of Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.*

**NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.**

113 North 6th  
PO Box 41  
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NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

November-December-January, 2008

# PIONEER PRESS

Volume 26, Issue 2  
Published Quarterly

Museum Open  
Wednesdays  
October–May 1, 2009



## Heritage Days Festival 2008 A Big Success

Over \$1000 Prizes Given Away for Contests and Heritage Hunt



Circuit Rider Michael Ulmer preaches at the interdenominational service on steps of the Old Stone Universalist Church, Main Street Seneca.

The thirty-third annual Heritage Days Festival brought a full weekend of activities, history, food and fun.

The treasure had been found on Dr. Hash's safe, colorful tent canopies were in place, the biscuits and gravy had been served when the day dawned bright and cool for the 2008 Heritage Days Festival on Saturday, October 4th. Vendors, the library book sale and a bucking bull at Rainbow Communication's Grand Opening added to the crowds on Main Street and full guided historic trolley tours.

A power outage on Saturday didn't deter the crowds or gusting winds on Sunday

slow the Circuit Rider preacher at the stone church gathering. Artisans, the 1889 Victor bicycle, the donkey and the roosters were available. By the time the NVHS drum line and the Legion Riders, lawmen, Stutz fire truck, tractors and politicians formed the parade, nearly 400 people had passed through both museums.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Heritage Days 2009 meeting	Nov. 5
NCHS Board Meeting	Nov. 11

KSHS Heritage Grant Workshop	Dec. 5
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NCHS Board Meeting	Feb. 10
--------------------	---------

Soup Day	Mar. 19
----------	---------

NCHS Board Meeting	May 12
--------------------	--------

Annual Mtg.	June 9
-------------	--------

Reorganization Meeting	July 14
------------------------	---------

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Ann York continues to improve and receives her mail at the Ambassador, Room 524, 4405 Normal Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68506.

### Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

Board of Trustees meeting  
Tuesday, November 11,  
2008 7:00 pm

Burger Annex I  
113 North 6th Street,  
Seneca, Kansas.

### Dome Tours!

The Topeka Capital Building is now open for guided dome tours. You will want to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to explore history in a whole new way!

### Congratulations To

Board Member and NCHS Vice-President

Richard Schmitz and his wife, Arlene, who

received the

"Friend of the Trail" Award from the

Oregon-California Trail Association

On November 12th



## Recent Donations Accessioned Into Nemaha County Historical Museum

Glenette Mitchell: Frank McGehee's military certificate; Tate Family photograph; documents: military & tax; eyeglasses; documents: letters & licenses, photos

Arlene McFarland: Hanson Genealogy

Alma and Bob Ackerman: Bonnet pattern; Bi-centennial patterns, 26 SWB telephone directories; Movie screen

Dorothy Henry Mason Jar – pint

Nellie Beckwith: Photo – baby – Sabetha Photography

Dean Rial: Six (6) vintage men's hats

Hazel Hoffman: 2 sets of baby shoes; vintage beauty shop items; dryer chairs, station, CCC photos, Seneca HS class picture 1940, Zettle genealogy and coat-of-arms, Ralph Hoffman photo on 1902 Oldsmobile, Hazel and Ralph's framed marriage certificate, Adelia Sunderland Zettle's autograph book, Hazel's classroom reader from Ford School.

Dr. Sarah Henry: Nine (9) photographs of style shows in Blue Room at Original Harsh Drug Store building & school gym

David Tangeman: 2 Battle Dressings – 1942 & 1943

Janet Hicks Ackerman, Emporia: 27 vintage pharmacy items

Annette Johnson,, Belle Vista, AR: Turner, King genealogies

Theresa Steinlage: Vintage NVHS band uniforms & hats, Sony Recorder, Reel Tape-1976; band boots, 22 operettas - NVHS

Tom and Mary Haverkamp: Eight vintage country school books

MaryKay Webb, Kansas City, Mo.: Dr. Fangman's delivery journal

Diane Rottinghaus: Wall quilt rack for NCHS display

Sue Fuller Kirschner, Houston, TX: Willis N. Slocum Civil War archives, framed civil war medals and photographs

Marilyn Ronnebaum: Four (4) Main Street parade 1997 photos

Andy Lange: "School Days" notebook—owner Arlene Bauman

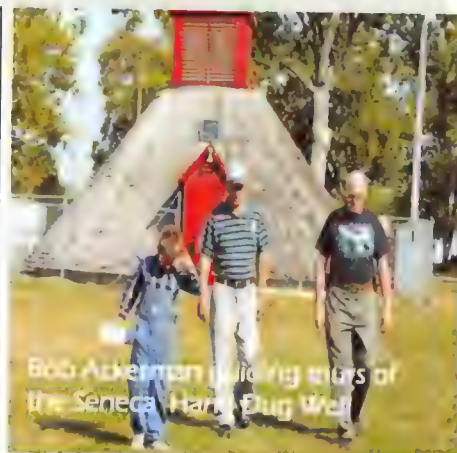
Mildred Frances: E. B. Searles's estate documents - Wetmore

Butch Clark: Maps, manuals, KSHS quarterlies, railroad schedules

### Settling Nemaha County—Phase II

Nikaela J. Zimmerman, Conservation Technician for the Kansas Museum of History at the Kansas Historical Society, visited the Nemaha County Historical Museum on September 26th. Ms. Zimmerman will be consultant for Phase II of our preservation and inventory project. Her textile preservation expertise will guide us through proper display and preservation of NCHS's vintage clothing, map, hat, quilt, hide, uniform and linen collections.

### Images From Heritage Days Festival 2008





## James Gregg (1827-1910)

From Seneca Courier, Nemaha County, KS., 1910

James Gregg was born July 26, 1827, Barr parish, Ayrshire in southwestern Scotland. His father was William Gregg, a blacksmith. He was the youngest of a family of eleven: six boys and five girls. He was at home until 16 years. He then hired out by the half year till he came to America. His schooling was limited. He attended three months a year, but his last year was for six months. He excelled in mathematics.

His mother died when he was 21 (1848). He had long before decided he would go to America. He had saved \$100.00 and in 1852 he came to America. It was a long trip sailing by vessel, from Liverpool to New Orleans, 10 weeks. The day they left he married Mary Ellis, and four days before they were to land Mary was buried at sea. Gregg was seasick for twenty-two days. From New Orleans he went to west Iowa where he worked the first winter for the widow of Alexander Baird at Hohntown.

Gregg never returned to Scotland. In 1855, he married Mrs. Janet Baird Anderson, a sister to Jon Baird Sr. at DeWitt, Iowa. The second year in Iowa he worked for a railroad on a 300 yard cut in Clinton County, Iowa at Lyons. Here he lost half of his wages because the railroad failed. For the next three years he rented a farm in Clinton, Iowa and came to Kansas in 1857. This part of Iowa was in line of travel for pioneers of those days, as it is today a super-highway across USA.

Gregg bought his homestead of one of General H. Lanes men, paying the man \$81.00 for his claims. The perfected title cost Gregg \$500.00. The final payment was made at the Kickapoo Land Office. Gregg borrowed this money of Mrs. M. Draney and Samuel Lappin. He paid Mrs. Draney 35% interest and Lappin 60%. Years later Gregg bought land till he had 1200 acres. He sold two 80's and two quarters. He gave seven forties to the Baird children under an agreement he had made with his second wife. He had 440 acres for his final farm house.

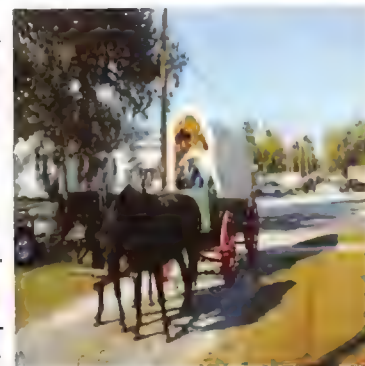
Gregg was treasurer of Nemaha Township for ten years. He was a justice of the peace and married five couples. He never had a trial in his court. He was a Democrat. He was followed to America by his sisters: Mrs. Agnes Kelly, widow of Alexander Kelly; Mrs. Sarah McBride and Miss Janet Gregg. The Kelly family consisted of Jon, James, Sarah, and Agnes. They settled on Turkey Creek and the neighborhood became known as Scotch Valley. Others coming from Scotland and joining the new colony were Jon Baird; Robert Fairborn; the Fishers, David, James and Andrew; William Clark, Samuel Clark and David Clark. Land was bought and homes were improved. Other neighbors were Juste Aziere and the Allison.

The Scotch Valley settlement was of Christian heritage and in the late 60's had preaching services at the Baird schoolhouse, supplied by the United Presbyterian Church of Pawnee City (Rev. Robert McCready). When the settlement with Gregg was completed in 1872, the Scotch Valley Church was organized with Gregg and William McBride as elders. There was a membership of thirteen. Gregg was Superintendent and McCready preached alternate Sundays.

About 1875, the Fisher and McBride sawmill was operating on the Hicks place and the congregation decided to build a church. Gregg gave land for the church and graveyard. By later agreement, the graveyard was made public. All the rough lumber and framing was done at the mill. In 1876, a church was finished and occupied for many years, with the congregation harmonious. Gregg contributed liberally, not only to the building and furnishings, but to its support. If there happened to be a deficiency at anytime on a salary, or anything else, he was always ready to reduce it. But after years of good fellowship and success, disputing among the members arose. Mr. Gregg withdrew and united with the Congregational Church of Seneca. Unable to attend regularly, and by request, his name was dropped from the church roll. In 1910, at the date of his obituary, the Scotch Valley Church was abandoned and an unsightly ruin. William Clark being the last member.

Funeral services for James Gregg were held at the home at 10 A.M. Tuesday, July 19, by Rev. A. Payne, preacher of the DuBois United Brethren in Christ Church. Singers were a male quartet from DuBois. The hearse was drawn by a pair of Clydesdale horses driven by Barney Rottinghaus. Pallbearers were M.H. Allison, Hugh Draney, R. M. Gugerty, Thomas Carlin, R.I. Scott, and Andy Williamson. Internment was at the Scotch Valley graveyard.

Gregg requested, and as was a family custom, all returned to the home for food for the humans and feed for the beasts.



Doug Berkley gave Covered Wagon rides for two days.

**NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY, INC.**

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PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS  
66538



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2008-2009

**Time To Pay**

**Membership Dues**

2008-2009 Annual Membership Fees of \$10 per person are due now. A lifetime individual membership costs \$200. A business membership is \$25 per year and entitles the business to sponsorship listing in the quarterly newsletter.

Check your mailing label for Membership Expiration Date. Any one year overdue membership is dropped from mailing list.

If you are receiving a "Courtesy" newsletter, we invite you to purchase a membership and pay \$10 dues.

**APPRECIATION**

The Heritage Days core staff expresses Special Appreciation to the City of Seneca staff, Mayor Mitchell, Rainbow Communications, Seneca Downtown Impact, Seneca Chamber of Commerce, Seneca Theater, Spring Creek Golf Course, Legion Riders, Seneca Wholesale, Nemaha Valley Motors, Conservation Office, American Legion, Boy Scout Troop #71, Ray Shinn, Seneca Firemen, Joe Schmeltzle, Michael Ulmer, Steve Haas, Dirk Colgrove, the NVHS drum line, Doug Berkley, Lacy Ackerman, Cathy Holthaus and Sheriff Rich Vernon.

**Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.**

**Business Memberships**

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Seneca Community Television  
United Bank and Trust, Seneca, KS

A grateful thank you to all our business sponsors who provided financing, tents, and encouragement during the Heritage Days 2008 Festival.



# Pioneer Press

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

February, March, April 2010

Volume 27, Issue 3

The Pony Express Preservation Society

## CELEBRATES PONY EXPRESS'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The Nemaha County Historical Society is pleased to support and assist the Pony Express Preservation Society who has received a Kansas Humanities Council Major Grant for the Pony Express Museum located in Seneca, KS. The grant will be used to tell the "*Pony Express Story in Seneca*". Since Seneca was the first home station west of St. Joseph, MO., the Pony Express Story has impacted the businesses and culture of this community. This project is especially important this year since 2010 will be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Pony Express.

The Pony Express Preservation Society will be receiving an \$8,500 grant from the Kansas Humanities Council and the Society will provide the \$ 19,610 in-kind cost share for a total project in the amount of \$ 28,110. Members of the NCHS will help with the project and provide working space at the Historical Society.

The 150th Anniversary celebration in Seneca will be Tuesday, June 22, 2010, with a biscuit and gravy breakfast preceding departure of the riders for points west. The drawing for the Henry Goldenboy 22 Pony Express Proof Edition Rifle will be held that morning. The drawing is a fund raising project of the Pony Express Preservation Society and tickets are available at a cost of \$10 per ticket.

This grant is funded in part by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization promoting understanding of the history, traditions, and ideas that shape our lives and build community.

## Historical Society Receives State Award

Anita Heiman, President of the Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. was appreciative as she accepted the "Community Award" trophy awarded to the Historical Society at the Kansas Main Street Awards Banquet in Leavenworth this fall. Nominated for the award by the Seneca Downtown Impact organization, Anita was appreciative as she accepted the award from Lt. Governor Troy Findley.

The program awards are funded by the Kansas Department of Commerce in honor of active community involvement by the organization's members.

## Memorials Received by the Nemaha County Historical Society



In Memory  
Cecilia C. Niekamp  
1926—2009



In Memory  
Harold Joseph  
"Joe" Love  
1930—2009



In Memory  
Datha Gurney  
Holsapple  
1923—2009



In Memory  
Leo B. Tangeman  
1911- 2009

In Memory of  
Patty Gerlt Pillmeier

By her son, Robert Pillmeier,  
Rockville, MD.

# PIONEER PRESS

February, March, April 2011

Volume 28, Issue 3



## Nemaha County Historical Society accepts donation and commits to Preservation of Historic Building

Robert Ackerman, secretary of Seneca Lodge #39 AF & AM of Kansas, handed the Seneca Masonic Temple's keys to Anita Heiman, President of the Nemaha County Historical Society at the November Quarterly Board Meeting. Mr. Ackerman emphasized that the 1917 building and most of the contents were being donated without legal restrictions on the utilization of the property. The Board of Directors accepted the donation and agreed to preserve the building and contents. The project to restore the roof to original design, seal the basement walls and inventory the contents will begin in the spring of 2011. The board is accessing plans to house the expanded Military Exhibit in the building.



St. John's Day, June 1918 Dedication Program

### Board of Directors

Anita Heiman, President  
Richard Schmitz,  
Vice President  
DarlAnn Rial,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Harry Stewart,  
Maintenance  
Eugene Visser, Sales  
Joyce Olberding,  
Landscaping  
Frances Davis, Bancroft  
Clara Reinecke,  
Publicity  
Leanne Jones  
Dean Rial, Financial  
Alma Ackerman,  
Membership

## Volunteers Coordinate Tea Party



Recently Joyce Olberding and Diane Rottinghaus, Nemaha County Historical Society volunteers coordinated a visit to the Country Place Retirement home with a collection of hats from the museum. The ladies of Country Place tried on hats and enjoyed tea and cookies. Another visit is scheduled for June 2011.

### Staff

Diane Rottinghaus,  
Director  
Mary Steinlage,  
Librarian  
Dorothy Pearl Murphy,  
Research  
Lillian Engelken,  
Curator



## New Donations To The Museum

Al Buser Estate	18 hats, 74 unidentified photographs, vintage newspapers, Seneca High newspaper 1971; 1896 Bank Charter Child's vintage dress, shoes
Lorestine Schmelzle	Tape Dispenser used in egg business
Elizabeth Love, Manhattan, KS	Scrapbook, "The Girl Graduate - Her Own Book", Oneida High School, 1913; Iscah Marian Zahm.
Sally Lauer	Velvet Crazy quilt, cupboard from 1896 court house.
Marilyn Ronnebaum	Halmark Ornaments; Vintage Magazines, Auto hood decorations; doll shoes, vintage toys, kitchen items
Ellen Winkler	Photographs & newspaper accounts of Burger donations; 1993 & 1995
Bob & Alma Ackerman	Photo postcard of Seneca depot 1910
Jack Kuenzi, Bern	Leon John Bohm's military artifacts, feather beds, jacket, stuffed toys
Vernon Barnes, Wamego	Research and photos of Jesse L. and Virgil "Zeke" Barnes, Kansas Sports Hall of Fame Nominations
Dorothy Mae Koch	Seneca Public High School memorial plate
Anonymous	Seven drawer file cabinet for obituary collection
Dorothy Pearl Murphy	Quilt made with cloth squares found in the museum
Waters	Book "Heart Songs, Melodies of Days Gone By"
Masonic Lodge #39 AF & AM of Kansas	Masonic Temple building and most of the contents

*2nd Annual Heritage Days Golf Classic*  
*Is Now Scheduled for Spring Creek Golf Course*  
*Saturday, October 1st, 2011; Shotgun Start 10 a.m.*

*Proceeds to benefit the*  
**the Design and construction of the**  
**expanded military gallery in the Memorial Hall,**  
**formerly Masonic Temple .**

### Correspondence

Oregon City, OR

After years of collecting and research I have decided to write a book on Co D of the 8th Kansas Infantry. Most of the members of that company came from Nemaha County. I hope to make a trip to your museum soon. Also, if you can be of help to me in locating any photos of former members of the 8th, grave sites, descendants of those who still live in Nemaha County or virtually anything pertaining to the 8th Kansas I would be most appreciative. Sincerely, Marc Trueb

503-715-6225

### 2011 Schedule

**January 29:** Celebrating KS Sesquicentennial

*Kansas State Historical Museum*

**February 8:** Board Meeting

**May 10:** Board Meeting

**May 15:** Open House

**June 14:** Annual Meeting

**June 18:** Tractor Cruise

**July 12:** Reorganization

**July 25:** Car Show

**August 9:** Board Meeting

**Sept. 16-17:** Hwy. 36 Sale

**October 1-2:** Heritage Days

### THE COURIER-TRIBUNE



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**PO Box 100**

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**Seneca, KS 66538**

## Genealogy Correspondence Received

Hello,  
I am hoping you can help me. I am from Marshall County and have been researching my family history for over 15 years. I live in Ohio now. Anyway, I believe some clues to my family's history lie in Nemaha County. My ancestors lived in the St. Bridget/Axtell area, and, I believe, they had brothers/sisters who settled in Nemaha. If you could help me with these things, I am willing to pay research fees.

\* I have run across an Ellen Ryan, born about 1859 in Iowa. Her father's first name unknown, would have been born within 5-10 years of 1829 and had a sister, also named Ellen Ryan. His sister, Ellen, married Michael Shaughnessy (my great, great grandfather). I'm hoping to locate my Ellen's brother, and through him, her father. Ellen (Ryan) Shaughnessy's neice, Ellen Ryan, is the key. I found a little piece in the Axtell Anchor on 17 Apr 1884 that stated "Miss Ellen Ryan, from Seneca, came up Sunday to make a short visit to her aunt, Mrs. Shaughnessy." Any help you can provide to locate Ellen Ryan and her father in Nemaha County would be wonderful! My Ellen died the following year.

\* There was an Edward Shaughnessy, born about 1823 in Ireland. He lived in Marshall county for a while and when he died on 30 May 1893 he was buried in the St. Bridget Cemetery. I believe he was living in Nemaha County at the time of his death, and that my Michael Shaughnessy was his brother. I am basing my theory on some documents I have found in various places.

\* In Marshall County, there is a Quit Claim Deed dated 28 Mar 1900, with Grantors "Mary Shaughnessy a widow & Annie Shaughnessy heirs of Edward Shaughnessy, dec." and Grantee "Michael Shaughnessy, Sr." that

Was notarized in Nemaha County. There is also a Guardian's Deed dated 3 May 1900, with Grantors "Mary Shaughnessy Guardian of Andrew, Michael, Catherine, Ellen, Julia, Bridget & Thomas Shaughnessy of Nemaha County," and Grantee "Michael Shaughnessy, Sr." Both of these were filed together on 4 May 1900.

\* My Michael Shaughnessy was married in Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana in 1852. An Edward Shaughnessy married a Mary Doyle in 1849 in the same place. The Edward that shows up in Kansas is also married to a Mary. I believe he is the same person.

\* Lois Cohorst (Marysville) wrote a piece called "Grandsons of the Pioneers: Michael O'Shaughnessy Farm from the Century Farm Saga" several years ago. I don't know if it was ever published, but she gave me a copy. She had interviewed many members of the Shaughnessy family for her material. In her document, she states that my Michael Shaughnessy came to America with 3 brothers. They all separated, but "his brother, Edward, came to Marshall County some time later."

\* Finally, when my Michael lived in Indiana, he appeared in the 1850 census as a "shoemaker" and one of the items he passed down to his descendants was a shoe-making apparatus (now owned by Sean Shaughnessy). I found a piece in the Axtell Anchor on 18 Oct 1883 that states "Boots and Shoes: Edward Shaughnessy came here from St. Louis, about four years ago, and in that time has built up a good trade in boots and shoes, which is to his credit." This may be coincidence, but I think I should follow up on that lead!

Thanks for your help. I am contacting the Nemaha County Clerk to see if they have a death record for Edward Shaughnessy. If they do, I will let you know so that we do not duplicate one another's efforts.

Crystal Schulte

Hello:

I am looking for pictures or information about my parents who grew up in Seneca. Mary Lou Williams and Kenneth James Gilsdorf are their names. Kenneth went to St Peter and Paul catholic grade school. Mary was born in 1926. Kenneth's family moved to the south side Seneca in 1928. They had 5 milk cows and sold milk to the grocery store and neighbors. Kenneth dad was William Henry Gilsdorf and he worked selling Morman mineral, etc.

I am looking for any pictures or information about Seneca and the surrounding area about that time until the end of the 1930's.

Do you have any information?  
Thanks,  
Michael

Doug & Sharon Ackerman

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302 Castle 785-336-6011



# Llewellyn Castle Examined

## The Workingmen's Cooperative Colony of Nemaha County

### Part 3

by

Gary R. Entz

In the summer of 1870, the London-based Board of Directors for the Workingmen's Cooperative Colony in Kansas began drawing up plans for an elaborate utopian city. Had it come to fruition, the city would have boasted a massive central administrative complex surrounded four concentric circles of buildings capable of housing over 500 families. The design called for pneumatic tubes for communication, covered tramways for transportation, and centralized gas, plumbing, and steam heat piped to every home. It would have been a remarkable feat had the settlers been able to pull it off.

After Edward Smith's death in September and Charles Murray's subsequent audit of the colony books, it became clear that plans for a utopian village would have to be shelved. Murray left Kansas in December 1871, and Charles McCarthy replaced him as colony superintendent. McCarthy, one of the original colonists, was dedicated to Bronterre O'Brien's philosophy, but he lacked the organizational skills necessary to manage the collective farm. Meager harvests continued, and support from London began to lag. By the summer of 1872, McCarthy was forced to find employment in Chicago in order to feed his own family. With his de-

parture, the colony once again was leaderless.

Several individual colonists stepped forward to take McCarthy's place, most notably William Beeby and later William Wessel. McCarthy wasn't the only settler abandoning the colony, which made it difficult for Beeby and Wessel to increase production on the collective farm. Without stable leadership the colony stumbled toward insolvency. However, toward the end of 1872, a London investor named Frederick Wilson became enamored with the collectivist ideal of the Kansas colony. He began pouring his own money into the endeavor and kept the settlement financially afloat for another year. Nevertheless, as 1873 came to a close it became clear that if the colony was to succeed then an experienced superintendent was necessary.

In the spring of 1874, John Radford arrived in Kansas to take leadership of the colony. Radford had been a follower of Bronterre O'Brien's since the 1850s and was well-versed in his social philosophy. Working closely with John Molineaux, Radford brought the wayward colonists back in line and nearly succeeded in making the collective farm productive. Unfortunately, the grasshopper plague of 1874 destroyed his labors. The disillusioned colonists resettled in neighboring towns, and in London Wilson became responsible for the mortgage. The land was made available to individual colonists, and by 1880

most of it had been sold.

The O'Brienites had been active socialists in London, and in Kansas they readily became outspoken proponents for political and social reform. John Fuller in Seneca often regaled audiences with his favorite talk, "wealth is not worth."

**"I'd be happy to answer anyone's questions or accept additional information at my email address: [entzgr@gmail.com](mailto:entzgr@gmail.com)"**

He went on to author The Art of Coppersmithing, a book that remains in print to this day. In Wetmore, John Stowell became a leading temperance advocate and won elective office in the city. John Radford became an important member of the Populist Party in neighboring Brown County and played significant role in the 1892 gubernatorial campaign.

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# Llewellyn Castle Examined

## The Workingmen's Cooperative Colony of Nemaha County

### Part 4

by

Gary R. Entz

A list of shareholders and family members of the Mutual Land, Emigration, and Cooperative Colonization Company that emigrated from England to Nemaha County, Kansas. This listing is incomplete as I have not yet accounted for all the wives and children of a number of the men.

--Gary R. Entz

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
John Ambrose	Common Laborer
Mary Ambrose	Wife of John
Thomas Ashton	Agriculturalist
William	
Horace	
William Beeby	Painter/Agriculturalist
Robert Beilby	Laborer/Agriculturalist
Jane Beilby	Wife of Robert
Harriet	
Sophia	
+ Mary Anne	
Henry Belshaw	Laborer/Agriculturalist
Edward Booker	Carpenter
William Byford	Railway Porter
Robert Clark	Architect
John Coney	Carpenter
George Cox	Carpenter
Jane Cox	Wife of George
Bill	
George P.	
Art	
Harry	
Ada	
Harriet	
Fred	
Sophia Days	Unknown
William Delbridge	Stone Mason
George Dutch	Carman
Mrs. G. Dutch	Wife of George
William Dutch	Horse Keeper
Walter Edgington	Joiner/Agriculturalist
William Edwards	Joiner/Agriculturalist
x John Fuller	Coppersmith

Ann Fuller	Wife of John
Henry	
John, Jr.	
William	
Walter	
Martha	
Helena	
A.D.G. Hazel	Engine Fitter
George Hearn	Undertaker
Robert Hill	Carpenter/Joiner
Sophia	
William Jenkins	Painter/Paper Hanger
x Charles McCarthy	Laborer
Mary McCarthy	Wife of Charles
Charles, Jr.	
Thomas	
Eugene	
Justin	
Felix McCarthy	Lithographic Printer
Isaac May	Laborer
John R. Molineux	Painter
Sarah Molineux	
Sarah	
Ellen	
+ Alfred	
Josiah Morley	Bricklayer
John Mourdaunt	Wood Turner
*x Charles Murray	Boot Closer
Thomas Neil	Engineer
Sarah Plowman	Dealer
x John Radford	Engraver/Metal Worker
Maria Radford	Wife of John
Elizabeth	
Jane	
Mary	
William	
John Maximilian	
James	
Robert Rogers	Lawyer
Edward Rooney	Warehouseman/Agriculturalist
*† Charles Sargood	Carpenter
*† James Sargood	Carpenter
Thomas Savings	Printer/Agriculturalist
† John Shallis	Tanner
x Edward G. Smith	Carpenter
Elizabeth Smith	Wife of Edward
John Stowell	Warehouseman
John Trent	Plasterer/Agriculturalist
George Walker	Lawyer
Mrs. W. Walker	Unknown
George Weston	Carpenter/Agriculturalist
William Wessell	Agriculturalist/Collector
* Returned to England	
† Never settled on the colony	
+ Born on the colony	
x Served as colony superintendent	



**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

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**The Workingmen's Cooperative Colony  
of Nemaha County  
Part 4 (continued)**

by

Gary R. Entz

After the colony collapsed, several shareholders in the Mutual Land, Emigration and Cooperative Colonization Company immigrated to Kansas to join family or to purchase former colony land.

Name

**William Fish, James Slark, William Worscester**

In addition to the above, John T. Bristow mentioned a small number of family names that he claimed came to Nemaha County, Kansas, from England as part of the colony. These names are unconfirmed by any other source, although a few do have corresponding names mentioned as shareholders in company records.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Corresponding Shareholder</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Corresponding Shareholder</u>
William Conover	none	Morden family	John Mourdant
Gates family	none	Perry family	Alfred Perry
Helsby family	none	Minnerva	Minnie Rogers
McConwell family	none	Weeks family	none
Mrs. Terbit	none		

**The End**

# Pioneer Press

May-June-July 2011

Volume 28, Issue 4



## NCHS Volunteers Scheduled to Begin Inventory Of the Masonic Temple Soon



The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. has filed for a \$10,000 grant to fund, in part, the expansion of the "Lest We Forget" - Settling Nemaha County Project. The research, collections and management of exhibition will help interpret the story of Freemasonry and Military activity in Nemaha County for 150 years. The Nemaha County Historical Society is working to develop an attraction in the recently gifted Masonic Temple building. Donation of

this property will allow the Nemaha County Museum to continue its mission of preserving the settlement and living heritage of Nemaha County, as well as interpreting the influence of the military and Freemasonry and Knights of Columbus disciplines upon the past, present and future settlers. This project will transform an underutilized building into an area that will provide room for community events while displaying artifacts in mobile display cases that can be arranged within the building according to the occasion. On going fundraisers are planned with a Tractor Cruise on June 18th and Golf Classic on October 1st.

Volunteers plan to have a preliminary exhibit in the Masonic Temple for viewing at Heritage Days Festival on Sunday, October 2nd. Special speakers and exhibitors have accepted invitations for the October 2nd event scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.



### *Memorials Received In Memory of Theresa Rettele*



1936-2011

### *Memorial Received In Memory of Leona M. Lueger*



1925-2011

  
**Rainbow**  
COMMUNICATIONS



## New To The Museum

## Pending Board Approval

Eunice S. Barrow, Silverton, OR

Photograph of great-grandparents: Mary Frances Dunfee and Mark Stephens born 1842 Logansport, IN; died Sept. 21, 1911, Nemaha County

Greg Newlin

Research—Seneca name origin; genealogy—*Descendants of Augustus Jacob Wolfley*; 10 copies of booklet: "Old Albany, 150 years" for sale @ \$15

Morris Werner, Madison, TN

Research: African American slaves in Nemaha County—Underground RR or Freedmans Bureau

Greg Strohm, Merriam, KS

"The Stars and Stripes" newspaper, Paris, France edition; November 13, 1918 issue

Mary Steinlage

1898 Photograph of John Heinrich Niehues family  
1936 Steinlage Farm photos

Virgil "Red" Kelley Estate  
Centralia

Artifacts; Military, Freemasonry, Shriners & Eastern Star & Red Kelley's Centralia store & Home

Marilyn Ronnebaum

1898 Child's Book, Vintage Newspapers & books; Medical Collections; Crystal and Toys

Nemaha Valley High School  
Library

Research Magazine collection includes:  
*Time* from August 1968 to end of 2010.  
*Newsweek* from Jan. 1968 to end of 2010  
Readers Guide to Periodical Literature 1965 to 1993 (index to magazines)  
Hardbound copies of *Time* from the 30s and 40s (1937, 1938, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945)

Marshall County Historical  
Society

Nemaha County Railroad (1925), SPS photos & Goff area lamb's wool filled quilts; Baileyville & SP&P '54 & '56 High School Graduation Announcements

Ruth Hoskins

1952 Wedding Dress, hat and veil; wedding picture

Alma & Bob Ackerman  
Doug & Sharon Ackerman

Book: Statue—John James Ingalls (1905); two manikins, card display, Military scarf and handkerchief, tour guide ropes; Masonic Archives; vintage juicer; 1889 press, 1949 ticket machine

Dean & DarlAnn Rial

Five Books: "The Better Angels of Our Nature" Freemasonry in the American Civil War; author Michael A. Halleran; for sale @ \$25

## Board of Directors

Anita Heiman, President

Richard Schmitz, Vice President

DarlAnn Rial, Secretary-Treasurer

Harry Stewart, Maintenance

Eugene Visser, Sales

Joyce Olberding, Landscaping

Frances Davis, Bancroft

Clara Reinecke, Publicity

Leanne Jones, Director

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Alma Ackerman, Membership

### Staff

Diane Rottinghaus, Director

Mary Steinlage, Librarian

Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Research

Lillian Engelken, Curator

634 North 11th,

Seneca, KS



785-336-3575

## Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Covered Dish Meal: 6:30 p.m.

**7:00 p.m. Special Speaker:** Our Humanities consultant, Sandra Reddish, is a Museum Technician for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Museum at Ft. Riley, Kansas. She is also a Phd student at Kansas State University. She received her M.A. in Public History from Wichita State University. She is a member of the National Council on Public History and the International Society for First World War Studies.

**7:30 p.m. Election of Four Directors to NCHS Board**

Burger Annex I, Nemaha County Historical Museum, 113 North 6th  
Seneca, Kansas

## THE COURIER-TRIBUNE



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## Genealogy Correspondence Received

Hi! I'm seeking information on Cornelius Arthur Hale who is buried in the Ford Cemetery. Perhaps a burial record of the cemetery will name the parents of the deceased. Cornelius Arthur Hale (1822 to 1898) who was born in Kentucky, lived a time in Missouri, then lived near Seneca KS from the 1850's until his death on 11 Dec 1898. His wife was Mary Ann Best.

In particular I am searching for documentation of the identity of his parents so any objective source that might mention his parents would be very helpful such as a death certificate, obituary notice, biography or any other item.

Can you help me in this search or refer me to the proper authority to check older records?

Please let me know what I can send in the way of fees, or expenses.

thank you,

Barb: Darlington, WI 53530

NCHS:

My brothers and I are very happy that your museum is interested in this November 13, 1918 issue of The Stars and Stripes newspaper. It was quite a shock when we discovered it at the bottom of a trunk while going through our mothers estate. None of us knew it existed. It is a bit worn at the folds due to the poor storage site but aside from that it is quite readable. The Stars and Stripes website has copies of all editions that can be downloaded from their website so I have that copy to keep for our family. It turns out that 1918 was the inaugural year at the magazine as well.

One nice bit of discovery for us was the address from Uncle Arthur in Paris France to our Grandfather, his brother Winn, who was then residing in Centralia, Kansas. None of us knew he had served in WWI. We thought that Uncle's military service was all peace time. Perhaps that is what inspired our Father and his brother Paul to enlist in WWII.

Please drop us a note when your military exhibit is ready for public viewing. Greg Winn Strohm Merriam, KS

## SENECA NAME ORIGIN ??

Sent by Greg Newlin, found while researching for something else; Found in "History of Kansas Newspapers", (1854 to Jan. 1, 1916) page 249:

*Seneca: Originally called Rock Castle, name soon changed to Seneca, after Seneca County, Ohio; Industries—brick and tile plant; municipal electric light and waterworks system, telephones; is on the St. Joseph & Grand Island and Missouri Pacific railways.*

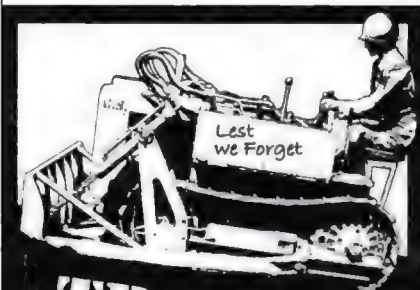
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**June 18, 2011**

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#### African-American Slave Research

I am researching African American slave related families who were early settlers in Nemaha County on the Underground RR or Freedman's Bureau. Relationships and dates are mostly from Cletus Suther's records available at the Nemaha County Historical Museum. Note that the Holden, Murphy and Worley families were from Cherokee Co., GA and were related by marriage before coming to Kansas on the Underground Railroad in 1862.

William, s/o John Franklin and Phoebe Ann (Worley) Murphy was 3 years old when he came to Nemaha County with his parents.

William Washington Worley b. 1812 was the patriarch of the Worley clan. The siblings, Charles, Jane and Cora, were perhaps children of Joseph and Mary (Baker) Holden, buried in the Albany cemetery.

Phoebe Ann Worley (Murphy) is listed in the household of William Washington Worley in 1870 and was a widow with two sons: William 10 years and Julian 9 years. Apparently she was sole proprietor of the Old Lincoln store in 1870, and married Joseph Hocker at a later date.

The Masterson and Roundtree families were from Kentucky and were re-settled in Nemaha County by the Freeman's Bureau and given grants of land in the Corning community.

Worley children attended Harris School District 42 and married into the white community. Winifred married William Bliesner and (2) Edward Henning. She died in 1957 and is buried in Corning cemetery. The Hennings lived 1/2 mile east of Corning. Ed was a veterinarian. His wife was reclusive and had little contact with the neighbors. The fact that she was of African American descent and granddaughter of a slave seems to have been forgotten by her contemporaries. I don't recall ever having seen Mrs. Henning, although we passed her home several times per week going and coming from Corning.

The Masters & Warren Cemetery is located 2 1/2 miles north of Corning on K63 and 1/2 mile east on north side of road with fence. It contains only four marked graves: William Washington Worley and wife, Licena Holden, and

Elijah Holden and wife Mary "Polly" Reese, parents of Licena. Origin of the name, Masters and Warren is obscure, perhaps "Masters" is an abbreviation for "Masterson."

Pleasant Hill (Harris) cemetery is located 1 1/2 miles north of Corning on K63, 2 miles east and 1/2 mile north on the east side of the road. It is enclosed on two sides by an Osage Orange hedge with cottonwood trees on the other two sides. The cottonwoods died during the drought of the 1930's. It is abandoned and no longer accessible to the public. The cemetery was served by a cottonwood bordered lane from a north-south road which bisected the section until 1912. Cedar trees and decorative shrubbery grow wild. There are about 30 marked graves and several half filled vaults which mark the graves of Benjamin Harris and members of the Rucker family who were removed to Corning cemetery about 1900.

Thanks for printing my list in the newsletter. I hope to get feedback from descendants still living in Nemaha County.

Early settlers of Nemaha County are respected for their role in making Kansas a free state. None are more deserving of respect than those escaped slaves who made their way to freedom in Kansas on the Underground Railroad.

Very truly,

Morris Werner

200 E. Webster Apt. 816

Madison, TN 27115

#### LIST OF Freedmans Bureau & Underground Railroad in Nemaha CO

**Holden, Charles** 1830-94 s/o Joseph & Mary (Baker) m. Susan E. 1839-1873. Underground RR 1862 (Tennel)

**Holden, Cora** m. John Masterson 1862 Underground RR (Tennal)

**Holden, Jane** & Thomas Frame, Albany 1862 Underground RR (Tennal)

**Holden, Joseph** & Mary (Baker or Barber) Albany Cem. (J. Holden owned 10 acres east edge of Albany (1912) Nemaha Co. Atlas.

**Holden, Licena** 1820-98 d/o Elijah & Mary (Reese) m. William Washington

Worley 1848, Cherokee Co., GA; Masters & Warren cemetery

**Holden, Milo** 1869-1950 s/o Charles & Susan m Delia (Moulton) 1868-1910 (2) Clara (Donaldson)

**Masterson, Alva** 1893-1917 d. Camp Funston; Corning cemetery

**Masterson, Charles** 1865-1932 s/o John & Leah (Collins) m. Sidney (Francis) (2) Lucinda (Mitchell) Corning cemetery

**Masterson, Clarence** m. Mary (Emanuel) 1851-1930 Corning cemetery

**Masterson, Ernest** 1878-1970 s/o George & Mary

**Masterson, George W.** 1866-1938 m. Mary 1863-1929 d/o Frederick & Mary (Striebler)

**Masterson, John F.** m. Leah (Collins) 1841-1919 Corning cemetery

**Murphy, John Franklin** 1836 m. Phoebe Ann (Worley) Cherokee Co., GA;

**Murphy, William B.** 1859-41 s/o John F. & Phoebe Ann (Worley) b. Cherokee Co., GA; Seneca Cemetery

**Roundtree, Cecil H.** d. 1922 s/o Daniel & Amanda (Ford) Corning

**Roundtree, Daniel** 1843-1918 b. KY m. Amanda (Ford) Corning cemetery

**Roundtree, Eugene** m Alice (Denton) 1809-78 Sabetha Cemetery

**Roundtree, Homer** 1866-1938 s/o Daniel & Amanda (Ford) m. Edith (Stone) 1869-1975 Seneca cemetery

**Roundtree, Lena Loretta** 1900-91 Sabetha cemetery

**Roundtree, Levi B.** d. 1991, bur. Albany cemetery

**Roundtree, Thomas** 1865-1950 s/o Daniel & Amanda (Ford) m. Minnie (Yant) Corning cemetery

**Roundtree, Morris** s/o Daniel & Amanda (Ford) m. Gertrude (Luckens) 1879-1909 Woodlawn cemetery

**Russell, Daniel** Albany 1862 on Underground RR (Tennal)

**Russell, Lena** Albany 1862, sister of Daniel

**Worley, Joseph Brown Elijah** 1862-1922 m. Adda (Randel) Corning

## Celebrate your life and heritage by designating your documents and donations to the Historical Museum.

1. **Project:** Organize your paperwork by having a plan in place when it comes to charitable giving, you can prevent your entitled tax benefits for helping others from falling by the wayside. Find out how you can easily set up a system and avoid common mistakes when it comes to documenting your contributions this year.
2. **Find out how 2011 Estate Tax Changes Affect You.** With the new year comes the return of the estate tax. Well into your retirement years, you may be wondering what this means for you. Find out how this major change will figure into your plans and what other updates are taking place this year.
3. **A Penny-Wise Way to Help!**  
Looking for creative ways to support your historical society during your retirement years? By naming us as the beneficiary of your retirement plan assets or insurance policies, you can provide the support you desire without giving up assets today! Check with your accountant and call us today!

### Donors to Nemaha County Historical Museum

2003—17 Donors 2004—25 Donors 2005—17 Donors  
2006—148 Donors 2007—5 Donors 2008—56 Donors  
2009—73 Donors 2010—83 Donors

## 105 Kansas Quilts 4 Kansas 150th

The Staath Memorial Museum, Montezuma, KS has scheduled a quilt exhibit for **July 3, 2011 through August 14, 2011** as their part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Kansas Statehood. Their goal is to exhibit one quilt from each of the 105 Kansas counties.

A letter from the Staath Memorial Museum requested a new or a old quilt that represents Nemaha County from the Nemaha County Historical Society. After reviewing the sixty-eight quilts in the museum's quilt collection, staff and volunteers chose to send the quilt made by 81 Nemaha County Businesses in 1975.

The Quilt of County Businesses is a nine block square quilt with a 2 inch border. NCHS sold 12 inch square blocks of white muslin with imprint of the business logo to be embroidered for \$20 to each of the 81 businesses in the county to raise money to help pay off the purchase of the Sheriff's Residence and Jail. The blocks were then sewed together and quilted. This Quilt made \$1620 for the museum and truly represents all of Nemaha County

## Museum Happenings

**Marshall County Historical Society:** The Board of Directors of the Marshall County Historical, Marysville, toured the three buildings of the Historical Museum on the morning of Friday, March 25th. The group expressed amazement that every item in our museum has a barcode with name, accession number, photograph of item. After a brief tour of the Masonic Temple building, the group enjoyed lunch at Cornerstone Coffee Haus and a tour of the Pony Express Museum.

**Ft. Riley Expo:** Anita Heiman and Diane Rottinghaus assisted the Seneca Chamber of Commerce at the all day Ft. Riley Tourism Expo on April 2nd.

**Alumni:** A Planning Committee of the Seneca Public School Alumni group visited and researched the Museum's school room on April 2nd. The group are developing plans to expand the SPS exhibit on the first floor of Annex II. The SPS Alumni Group will meet at the Pony Express Museum on June 11, 2011.

**Main Street:** The Kansas State Main Street organizations held their quarterly meeting in Seneca on April 13-15th. The Museum was open for the Seneca Downtown Historical Tours from 4 to 7 p.m. each evening.

**Booking:** The Nemaha County Republican Women's club has booked the Museum for their Annual Luncheon Meeting on June 11th. The luncheon will be catered by the Miller's Daughter. After special speakers, the group plans to tour the three museum buildings.



contact Bill at 785-336-2101  
or email [bill@lauerfuneralhome.com](mailto:bill@lauerfuneralhome.com).



**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

113 North 6th Street  
PO Box 41  
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Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
E-Mail: [nchs@rainbowtel.net](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net)  
DarlAnn Rial—Editor 785-294-1174  
E-Mail: [Albert.rial@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Albert.rial@sbcglobal.net)

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Nemaha County Historical Society

Due July 1, 2011 Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**2011-2012 Registration Form**

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 66538

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H) \$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (Life) \$200.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership \$20.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution-Memorial or Recognition of _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund _____	

Number of Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.*

# PIONEER PRESS

August, September, October 2011

Volume 29, Issue 1



The Tractor Cruise Bonenefit was held on June 18, 2011 to fund the exhibit which will honor the Service and Sacrifice of our Nemaha County warriors by preserving their military uniforms and collections.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SPONSORS:**

Spring Creek Classics – Wetmore  
Koch & Co., Inc.

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Southwind Crop Insurance

Don's Tractor Salvage

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William O'Keefe, Attorney At Law

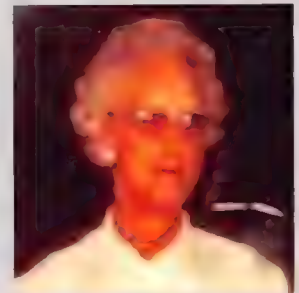
AHRS Construction

Baileyville State Bank

Hiawatha Walmart

Seneca County Television

## **Memorials Received**



**Christine Burger  
Childers  
1900 -1998**



**Elmer R. Koelzer  
1934-2011**



**James E. Sheik  
1919-2011**



## Museum Happenings

**Pauly Jail Cells:** In May, Jerry and Jan Kneifel from the Platte County Historical Society visited the museum and took pictures of the Pauly Jail Cells. Jerry took photos of the our 1879 cells so that the historical society can create the missing parts of their gifted 1877 Pauly cells.

**150th Quilt Show:** Nemaha County Historical Society has a quilt in the the Stauth Memorial Museum, Montezuma, KS from July 3, 2011 through August 14, 2011 as their part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Kansas Statehood. Stauth County Museum's goal has been to exhibit one quilt from each of the 105 Kansas counties.

**Pepperbox School Revisited;** Barbara Ketterman Pendleton, Shawnee Mission, KS, recently brought her mother and father, Cora and Romney Ketterman, to tour the museum and the World War I artifacts. Romney Ketterman taught at the Pepperbox school in 1949.

### New Volunteers

Four volunteers, Sally Lauer, Katy Holthaus, Edith Deters, and Sharon Steinlage, have answered the call from the Nemaha County Historical Society for "Greeters". As the inventory of the Masonic Temple progresses, visitors to the museum need to be greeted and toured through the Sheriff's Residence and Jail. The greeters welcome guests and assist with typing as well as document filing in the museum office.

### WW II Veterans Reception

Leonard Krogman, Don Winkler, Melvin Bergman and Ed Holthaus, four veterans of World War II, met on Saturday, July 2nd at the Nemaha County Historical Museum to share their experiences and answer questions at a community reception. Board member Harry Stewart filmed the presentation to preserve war experiences on tape. Board member Clara Reinecke was committee chair for the event. The video of the reception is currently showing on Seneca Community Television (Channel 2). Another reception is scheduled for Veterans Day which will include Korean Veterans.

### 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Sandra Reddish, Museum Technician at the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Museum at Ft. Riley was the special speaker at the 2011 Annual Meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Sandra has agreed to be the NCHS Humanities Consultant for Military Artifact Preservation program. She received her M.A. in Public History from Wichita State University. Sandra is also a PHD student at Kansas State University. She reviewed the stated intentions, helped research possible theme and project development and necessary steps needed to cultivate humanities philosophical approaches to the project outline.

## Board of Directors

Anita Heiman, President  
Richard Schmitz, Vice President  
DarlAnn Rial, Secretary-Treasurer  
Harry Stewart, Maintenance  
Eugene Visser, Sales  
Joyce Olberding, Memorials  
Frances Davis, Bancroft  
Clara Reinecke, Publicity  
Leanne Jones, Director  
Dean Rial, Financial  
Alma Ackerman, Membership  
Raymond Thieme, Director  
Staff  
Diane Rottinghaus, Director  
Mary Steinlage, Librarian  
Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Research  
Lillian Engelken, Curator

### 2011-12 Schedule:

August 9, 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting  
September 16-17, 2011: Hwy. 36 Garage Sale  
October 1, 2011 2nd Annual Heritage Days Golf Classic  
October 2, 2011 Thirty-third Heritage Days Event  
November 8, 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting  
February 14, 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting  
May 15, 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting  
June 12, 2012 Annual Dinner Meeting/Directors Election  
June 16, 2012 Third Annual Tractor Cruise Fundraiser  
July 10, 2012 Reorganization Meeting



## District 42 Harrison Township Research

Thank you very much for the 1877 Atlas of Nemaha County. There were a few names that I could not make out, but I found the location of farms owned by Joseph Dennis, Cyrus Snodgrass, James Church, William W. Worley and his son, Miles Ambrose. The Atlas also identifies land given to the UP Central Branch Railroad when it was constructed in 1867. Early settlers preferred preemption claims for public lands rather than purchase from the UPBRR because the railroad required payment up front.

Enclose a map of Dist. #42 showing the homes of the first settlers of 1865-70, and hope to expand this list through further research. If your files contain enrollment records, names and terms of teachers, or other data pertaining to District 42, I would like to obtain copies. I understand that enrollment exceeded 36 students at the turn of the century, requiring construction of a new building in 1910. I attended District 42 in 1925-33 and lived on the land occupied by the schoolhouse; my father was on the school board. This farm had six owners in the seven decades between 1870 and 1940, when the district was disbanded.

Morris Werner  
50 E. Webster Apt. 816  
Madison, TN 37115

## Kansas Historical Society Seeking Survey Assistance

As part of the agency's efforts to commemorate the state sesquicentennial, the Kansas State Historical Society plans to conduct a historic preservation survey and prepare a National Registry historic context state for "Kansas Vernacular Architecture 1820-1900". The primary goal of the survey is to document all extant buildings constructed through 1861, the year of Kansas' statehood. KSHS has contracted with preservation consultants Dale Nimz and Susan Jezak Ford to carry out this important survey. Since the project is to be completed by September 15, 2011, we need your help to identify the earliest historic buildings in your community. If you know of any surviving buildings constructed through 1861 in your area, please contact Amanda Loughlin, Survey Coordinator, Kansas State Historical Society, at 785-272-8681 x 257 or send a message to [survey@kshs.org](mailto:survey@kshs.org).

Topeka (see <http://www.kshs.org/pl/annualreservation-conference/16649>).

## Genealogical Trip

The Wichita Genealogical Society is sponsoring a research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City from September 3 to 11, 2011. For more information about the trip, visit the WGS web site at

[www.wichitagensoc.org](http://www.wichitagensoc.org).

## Bern Historical Documents

John & Sharon Yaussi, Wichita, KS visited the museum recently and donated photographs, documents, books and clothing from 1890's belonging to the Messerle & Moser families of Bern, Kansas.

## SENECA NAME ORIGIN

Hi there

I was very interested in the Seneca Name Origin?? I had never seen this connection before! My father was from Seneca, Kansas and my mother from Seneca County, Ohio!! My dad came to Ohio from Seneca in 1937. He met my mother and lived in Ohio until his death. My grandparents lived in Seneca until they died. Harry Ellsworth and Alice Hailey Culler were their names. No roots in Seneca County, Ohio before the families went to Kansas. The Culler family had been in Noble County, Ohio but not in Seneca County.

Sandy Konzan, Marblehead OH 43440  
[SKONZEN@roadrunner.com](mailto:SKONZEN@roadrunner.com)

## Centralia Alumni Reunion:

Red Kelley's daughter, Jean Laughlin of Atwater, CA visited the museum over Memorial Day and viewed the Centralia focused exhibits.

## Goff Alumni Reunion:

Elaine Talarski of San Antonio, Texas attended the Goff Alumni Reunion over the Memorial Weekend. She requested a copy of the *Descendants of Augustus Jacob Wolfley* booklet.

## Benshoff Family Research

Brandon Keith brought his grandmother, Anna Bell Keith to Nemaha County on Memorial Day. They visited the cemeteries and the museum as they researched the Benshoff family. The museum had a 1913 photograph of Roy Benshoff with the Methodist Sunday School class in the potato patch donated by Velven York.



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# PIONEER PRESS

Volume 30, Issue 2

November-December 2011; January 2012

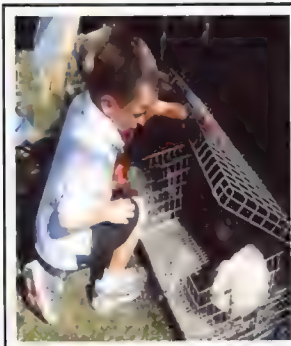


## Heritage Days Festival 2011



The American Legion Riders and members of Boy Scout Troop #71 lead the flag ceremony at the Heritage Days Festival 2011. Kelsey Bradley sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and Matt Carter demonstrated and entertained with military bugle calls. Buggy rides, a petting zoo, vendors, and tours of three museums were available. Cornerstone Coffee Haus catered the meal and the Boy Scout Troop prepared cobbler for over 200 people.

Proposed plans for the museum exhibits in the Masonic Temple were the focus of the special speakers during the Heritage Days Festival 2011. Sandra Reddish, Ft. Riley and Dr. Jay Price, Public History Director at Wichita State spoke of the need for community involvement and support. Ms. Reddish is serving as the museum's Humanities consultant for the inter-



pretive museum exhibition that tells the story of Freemasonry and Military activity in Nemaha County and Kansas over the last 150 years. This project will display military and masonry artifacts in displays highlighted with videos of Masons and veteran interviews. Historical Re-enactor Bill Nicks entertained as Dr. Naismith, inventor of basketball, prior to the drawing for prizes and closing ceremonies.

*Memorial Received  
In Memory of  
J.C. Newlin  
By Greg Newlin*

*NCHS Board  
Welcomes Two New  
Members*

*The Nemaha County Historical Society welcomes two new board members for the 2011—2012 year.*

*Raymond Thieme of Sabetha was elected to Position 5 to fill an un-expired term left by Byran Lear who moved out of state. A veteran of the Korean War, Mr. Thieme has been an active participant of the board.*

*Freda Dobbins of Goff was appointed to Position 9 on the NCHS by the Bancroft Preservation Association as representative of the Bancroft Depot Museum, an affiliate of the NCHS.*

*Trudie Barnes, Sabetha, won the Heritage Days Festival drawing for a hand made quilt.*



## New To The Museum

### Pending Board Approval

Helen Lierz	Hummel Collection; 25 Commemorative Plates; 1971-1995
Greg Newlin	"Abe Lincoln to Kansas Research & Sabetha History book
Marcena Stallbaumer	Three vintage school books
Melvin Harold	WW II Infantry Military Uniform
Mary Steinlage	Pictures and military uniforms of three brothers
Linda Griffiths, Topeka	Cookbook
Sandra Vaught, Topeka	Seneca High School notebook
Wilma Jones	Congregational Church archives
Richard Godbout	WW II Banners
Museum of KS National Guard	Two Marine and Two Naval Uniforms
Alma & Bob Ackerman Janet Ackerman Hicks	IOOF costumes and hats; mannequins; Freemasonry historical documents
Jeanette & Greg Heiman	Old Washing Machine (wood)
Lois Bindel	Leo Jurgensmeier's WW II military uniform, archives
Nancy Gafford	STEP annual reports and archives from Dr. Gilbert estate
Ellen Westerhaus	Crib, trunk, book, school and family pictures
John Yaussi, Wichita	Messerle family photos and archives
Mary Jane Fleming	Vintage Jacket and three photo books, postcards
Melvin Bergman	WW II Navy Uniform, ribbons and insignia; certificates and documents
Ray & Marlene Hightower Manhattan	Book: Tragedy on the District #100 School Ground", July 21, 1910; A synopsis of the Tragic Murder of William F. Bliesner and Associated Events that Followed. Researched, published and donated by Ray and Marlene Hightower.
Velven York	Jennie Harsh's IOOF 25 year pin (1877), Jermaine Masonic Bible; Oneida cookbook; SHS Tiger newsletter (1948); SHS toy tiger for alumni exhibit
Ambrose Schmitz	One-horse, wooden beam, breaking plow
Anita Heiman	Carvings, sailor hats; spinning wheel,
Ken Crevier	Wooden wash stand, mop bucket, mole trap, buggy wrench, reins holder
Gerald Swart, Goff	Scanned & returned copies of Melvin Swart's military photos, certificate & USS Storm King photos.
Robert Bair	Military Collection of 66 photos (1960-1971) Air Force Recon Photography; 48 star flag, banner, uniform and hat. Lowry Air Force Base, CO; Forbes Air Force Base
Ellmer Holthaus, Centralia	Scanned & returned copies of Elmer Holthaus's Vietnam Photographs (1969); documents, images from "Bite & Strike" by Bill Wolf.
Cy Roiggenkamp	1850s bathtub

### MUSCLES For FUNDS

*Thanks to high scholars Storey Feldkamp, David and Nick Holthaus for loading three old iron stoves from the Masonic Temple basement and Annex II into Bob Ackerman's pickup for a trip to the ironman. The load of iron brought \$88.50 to the treasury of the Historical Society.*

*Thanks to the Nemaha Valley High School Football Team for providing muscles for Heritage Days Festival activities. They set up tables, chairs, canopies and petting zoo racks.*

## SKF Sealing Solutions

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Nemaha County History

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Seneca, KS 66538

[sutherbuilding@yahoo.com](mailto:sutherbuilding@yahoo.com)

785-336-2255

### Historical Society Membership

Annual Membership Fee: \$10

Business Membership: \$20

Lifetime Membership: \$200

Annual Fees Due July 1st

501C3 non-profit organization.

## Golf Classic Sponsors

Thanks to the following sponsors & supporters of the Second Annual Heritage Days Golf Classic fundraising event and the 35<sup>th</sup> Heritage Days Festival:

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 AHRs Construction  
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 Casino White Cloud  
 Community National Bank  
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 SBS Insurance  
 Seneca Fire Depart.  
 Seneca Ready Mix  
 Seneca Sanitation  
 Seneca Thriftway  
 Seneca Wholesale  
 Settle Inn  
 Skeeze Farm Toy Museum  
 Suther Building Supplies  
 United Bank & Trust  
 Vi & Keith Megill

## MUSEUM BOOKING

The Nemaha County Republican Women's club has booked the Museum for their Annual Membership Meeting on March 10, 2012. The luncheon will be catered by the Miller's Daughter.

## MAIN STREET DISPLAY 1901-1905

Not every ounce of energy is going into fundraising by members of the Nemaha County Society. Volunteers have continued to inventory all the items in the recently gifted Masonic Temple. Over fifty invoices from early Nemaha County businesses were found in pristine condition. These were accessioned and preserved in the archives cabinet. Twenty-six of the invoices, dated 1901 to 1905, were copied and affixed with photographs of some of the businesses to a copy of the Sanford Insurance Seneca Main Street map for exhibit at the Heritage Days.

## Photos From Negatives

Currently Nemaha County Historical Society has been using a flatbed scanner and a small light source to scan negatives and turn them into actual photos for sale.

The Strathman Collection of black and white negatives and glass plate negatives cover the years of 1920—1945 and are being inventoried and cataloged in part by a Kansas Museum Association Grant.

## HIGHWAY 36 TREASURE HUNT

Thanks to the community, visitors and board members for donated garage sale items that sold at the museum during the Hwy. 36 Treasure Hunt fundraiser in September.

Sales brought a total of \$631 for two days. An Early Bird sale was held the night before the big event and was open to supporters who brought bakery goods to be sold at the Hwy. 36 Treasure Hunt.

Excess Masonic items and some garage sale items were sold on E-Bay which resulted in an additional \$823.50 to support the museum. The items were mailed to places such as Canada, Spain and France.



Doug & Sharon Ackerman

Locksmith Services

1110 Center Street, Marysville

785-562-3494 - ASSA



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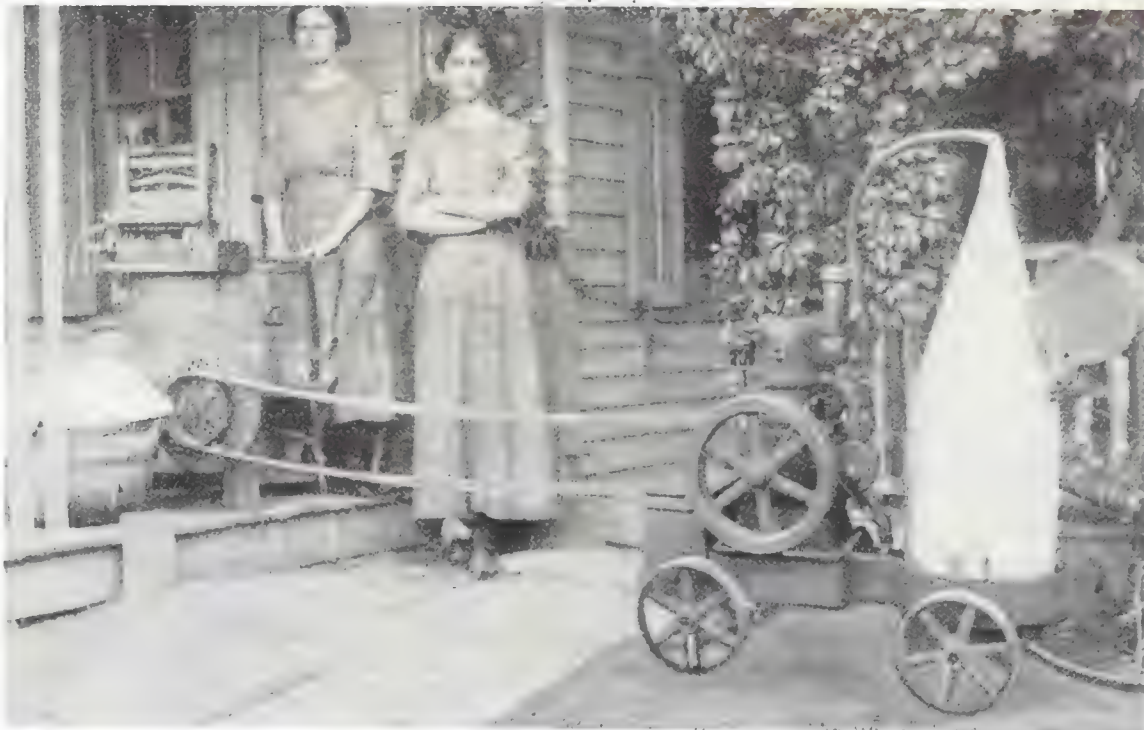
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The Cushman gas engine was often used to power the washing machines over one hundred years ago. One such restored engine was demonstrated by Doug Ackerman at the Heritage Days Festival. A wooden washing machine as one shown above was recently donated to the Nemaha County Historical Museum by Jeanette & Greg Heiman.

# New To The Museum

Steve McLeon, VA	Johanes Lehmann genealogy
USD 422 Board of Education	Cornerstone from Seneca Grade School (1938)
Tim Huninghake, Topeka	Photographed/Scanned images and returned: Joe Huninghake's US Army documents, Bronze Star medal citations, discharge, patches and awards, WWII convoy pictures, Army Song Book (1941), Field Manual; German Normandy Defense map and patches; Photos: John Blocker with beard in front of Blockers General Store, downtown St. Benedict, KS, Joe and Dorothy Huninghake wedding, reception of Joe and Dorothy Huninghake, Raphad Bergman Haverkamp and Cyrella Bergman Sudbeck, 11/4/15; Cleaning ladies with Father Gregory, Anna Blocker Bergman, St. Benedict;
Bob and Alma Ackerman	Blotter: "Seneca Belongs to the Midland Empire"; Calendar: Citizens Insurance Agency, A. O. Ward, Agent, Seneca, Kansas; 1966; Christiana Louise and Albert George Ackerman wedding; married 8-19-1925; M.A. York's KU Nursing Graduation Invitation 1957; Book "Men, Women and God in Kansas", Coronado to Turnpike; Robert G. Anderson, Kansas House Rep.
Morris Werner, TN	Manuscript: "Early Nemaha Valley Settlers and the Lincoln Visit legacy"
Nemaha County Treasurer & Lawrence Eisenbarth family	Underwood Typewriter belonging to Lawrence Eisenbarth, former Nemaha County Treasurer; Document storage box; Pen point for old ink; Book: Delbridge Interest Tables; Holder, Copy: ErrorNo; Christmas Tree ornaments
Dean Rial	Used HP Photosmart All-In-One Printer, Two book-cases, 48 Kansas Research books, Saber Belt
David Tangeman, Topeka	Framed WW I picture of military unit in San Antonio
Jones, Beattie	Postcard w/ photo of NM County 1877 Courthouse

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY SETS 2010 FUNDRAISERS TO BENEFIT EXPANDED MILIARY GALLERY:

The NCHS Board of Directors approved several new fundraising activities for 2010 at their November Quarterly Meeting. The funds are needed to create an environmentally controlled display for photographs, documents, maps and uniforms.

**May 16, 2010:** Open House ; Unveiling of "Lest We Forget" Military gallery design. Silent auction and chance for free museum services.

**June 2010:** Tractor Derby Fundraiser; ticket sales

**July:** Seneca Car Show in the Park: Coffee and donuts concession

**September:** Highway 36 Garage Sale: Collect items from community for benefit sale at museum.

**October: First Weekend:** (Sat) Golf Tournament (Sat) Sponsors to underwrite the actual cost of event. (Sunday) Heritage Days Open House with focus on Military Gallery and Vintage Community Military Support Quilts

**October: Last Weekend:** Halloween "Night at the Museum" Tour: Things come alive in our galleries. Staff to become first person characters. Crafts and goodies!



## Cornerstone Received

The USD 442 Board of Education donated the 500 lb. cornerstone from the original Seneca Grade School building built in 1938 to the Nemaha County Historical Society. This stone lists the boards of education members at the time and the architect for the building. The Board voted on the belief that the Historical Society would be the appropriate recipient of this stone and that NCHS will display and preserve this historical artifact for generations to come.

## King O'Malley

A Researcher is seeking information about an Australian politician and community leader who was born in Nemaha County. "King O'Malley" may not have been his real name. He was born on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1856, left Nemaha County in 1888 to make "amends", and died at 100 years. His mother's maiden name was King and communicated over the years with a Grace O'Connell (sweetheart) and a friend named Kennedy in Nemaha County. Do you know of this person? If so, call museum at 785-336-6366!

## LOST FUNDING

Nemaha County Commissioners have informed the Historical Society that due to a shortfall in the amount of anticipated revenue collected by the county, NCHS will receive less funding from the county than what was previously approved in the 2009 budget process.



There are now few of the old-time typical English with us. And the language of those who came over a long time ago has become Americanized to such extent that the younger generation here have no conception of just how delightfully funny was the talk of a fresh Englishman. However, some of those who came over as children and even some of the American born who had good tutors retain a percentage of the English pronunciation, but the inflection and speed which characterized their ancestors have been lost.

After the collapse of the Colony enterprise the unallotted part of section twenty-five fell into the hands of Captain Wilson, of London. He was an officer in the Company. Later, Captain Wilson's interest was acquired by William Fish, also of London, and a member of the Company. In England William Fish was superintendent of the Great Northern railroad. He came over here in 1881. He was a pensioner, and did not renounce his allegiance to the Crown.

Captain Wilson thought a lot of the Colony scheme. He was to have given his fortune at death to the first male child born on the Colony section. That honor fell to Alfred Wilson Mollineaux, first son of John Mollineaux, born 1874. While conversing with Alfred Mollineaux a few days ago, he said to me, "But since I didn't get me heritage I've dropped the Wilson part of my name. What would be the good to bother with it now!"

The Mollineaux heirs are the only descendents of the originals holding an interest in section twenty-five in recent years. Alfred now owns the south 80; Harry sold the north 80 two years ago to Otto Krack. Otto paid \$6,000 for it, including the growing crop. The old house on the place, built more than a half century ago, is the original John Mollineaux home. The other lands in the section have long since passed to new owners.

There are now only two of the old Colonists living. William Wessel, familiarly called "Teddy," came over in 1873. He is 89, and lives with his daughter, Mrs. John Chase, in Goff. William Conover lives with his son Edward, on a farm adjacent to the old Colony section. He is 89.

I took a drive about the old Colony section a few days ago seeking to refresh my memory and gather additional data for this article. At Goff I found Teddy Wessel in the Sourk Drug Store. Still living over the broken dreams of the past, Teddy exploded, first off, "They were a bunch of damned rascals."

In course of the interview I asked Teddy if he knew anything about a racy romance at Llewellyn Castle many years ago. "I should say I do," he said. He had a momentary flash of it. That was all. Then his mind began to fag. Laboriously, tantalizingly, the tired feelers of his mind went fumbling into the dark pool of the past, trying desperately to capture the lost details, but he whole works went under—ebbed away like a fadeout in a movie.

George Sourk, who was sitting by and coaching the old fellow a bit, said, "You'll have to give daddy a little time, John. He'll remember it all right."

Daddy swam up out of it all right and sure enough recollections were upon him with a bang. But the main topic was still submerged and in its place was a ugly memory that should have been dead long ago. "They were damned rascals," is all he said.

It is assumed that my very fine old friend's poisoned arrow was aimed only at the shades of the original six, or, at most, only those who had the actual management of the Colony affairs.

(To be continued in May Issue)

## TAX CREDITS

### SOLD:

The Community National Bank of Seneca purchased \$4,805 State Rehabilitation Tax Credits from the Nemaha County Historical Society. These tax credits were for the Front Porch Heritage Trust Fund project and is 30% of qualifying expenses. NCHS's share of the qualifying expenses on the project was \$16,016.66 and that amount, verified by the Kansas Department of Revenue, was approved for public sale to individuals and/or corporations by the Board at their November meeting. These tax credits may be used to pay 2009 and future Kansas Tax bills. NCHS appreciates the support that CNB gives to preservation projects.

## NEW FLAG POLE

An aluminum telescoping flagpole, eagle for top and light kit has been donated to the Museum in memory of Harry Burger by his neighbors. The Harry Burger Tribute, a 20 ft. flagpole, has anodized aluminum swivel rings that allow the flag to fly freely 360 degrees around the pole, a gold aluminum eagle ornament on top and a solar light that will shine on flag day and night.

## Kansas Book Wanted

A California Researcher wants to buy the book: "Kansas: A cyclopedia state history embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns and prominent persons". Do you have one to sell?

February Pioneer Press

**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

113 North 6th Street  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
E-Mail: [nchs@rainbowtel.net](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net)  
DarlAnn Rial—Editor 785-294-1174

Return Service Requested

**[ We're On The Web! ]**  
[www.nemahacountyhistorical.com](http://www.nemahacountyhistorical.com)

● Nemaha County  
Historical Society, Inc.  
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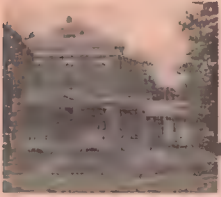
Mary Stunlage  
7148 LITTLE ST  
KELLY, KS 66538



The December snows and the Christmas Blizzard slowed the Historical Museum activities as visitors struggled through snow drifts to research and tour. Director Diane Rottinghaus gave tours and even treated the Cub Scouts Troop to hot chocolate. In December 2009. The above photos of the Feb. 21, 1921 snow storm are a part of the Oatman Main Street Collection and are reminiscent of the 2009—2010 snow storms.



# Pioneer Press



May, June, July 2010

Volume 27, Issue 4

## Museum inventory nears completion!

The Nemaha County Historical Society board of directors will meet at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, 2010 to receive the initial museum inventory report from Director Diane Rottinghaus. The four year inventory project of the Nemaha County Historical Museum has matched receipts given to donors for items donated with the images and lists compiled by museum volunteers.

Over 10,000 artifacts have been recorded, photographed, and bar-coded for preservation in display or storage. The entire inventory has been typed into the Past-Perfect computer program which will allow researchers and volunteers to know where each item is located in the museum, who donated it and when. A second copy of the inventory is stored in a secure off-site location.

At this May quarterly meeting, the board will also consider a proposed design for the expanded military exhibit for preservation of artifacts belonging to Nemaha County Veterans. Other proposals to be addressed by the board are the landscaping committee's proposal for additional parking and a location for the donated flag pole.

*The historical society will have a tractor cruise from the Seneca City Park at 11:30 a.m. on July 19, 2010 to help pay for the expanded military exhibit. To register, call Richard Schmitz, 785-336-6596 or go onto NCHS website.*

## Open House on May 16th

Although the museum will open to the public on May 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., an Open House will be held on Sunday, May 16th from 2 to 4 p.m. The "Lest We Forget" Military Exhibit design will be unveiled and tours of the three museum buildings will be provided. A scavenger hunt and silent auction will be available which includes donated prizes.

## Military Consultant Visits Historical Museum

Colonel Doug Jacobs from the Museum of Kansas National Guard in Topeka recently accepted NCHS Board's invitation to visit the Nemaha County Historical Museum at 113 North 6th Street. With NCHS volunteers and local VFW representative, Ray Rottinghaus, Col. Jacobs viewed the computerized inventories, archive storage and the military display arrangements. Preliminary discussions developed into plans for the creation of an expanded military display area, called "Lest We Forget". Preliminary designs will be available for public viewing at the May 16th Open House.

## Memorial Received



In Memory—John H. Hutfles  
1935—2010

## New Donations To The Museum

Board will review donations for	Accession into museum at May 11th Board Meeting.
Diane Rottinghaus	Five Kansas plates, St. Mary's Church sketch and interior photos
Seneca Community Television	Depository: 46 VCR tapes: City Council, School Board, ball games; 35 DVD discs: Community Activities 2002-2010; Three VCR cameras and cases—1985-2005 vintage; VCR players and video equipment; display & flag
Mary Beth Steinlage	19 World Book Encyclopedias, Copyright 1913
Morris Werner, TN	Corrected Manuscript: "Blazing Trail to Oregon"; Manuscript: <i>My Grandfather's House</i> by Jessie Neill Werner; Seven trail manuscripts by Morris Werner— <i>Baker's Ford, Cold Spring, KS Odyssey of Texas LDS, Shenandoah to the Wide Missouri, Trailing the Pathfinders, Lane's Trail and the Underground Railway and The Oketo Cut-off</i>
Bob & Alma Ackerman	Child manikin in red dress & hat stand, military artifacts, medical memorabilia, Country Store items, maps and history books
Dean Rial	Carpet for Display Area; two VCR cameras 2006—2009; Book—"A Laboratory Manual in Physics" 1913—Reception Counter
Dorothy Pearl Murphy	Sack for archives: Ace Hardware Logo
Anita Heiman	BPW History Scrapbook; SHS 1909 graduation invitation; Records for Nemaha County Co Memorial Park, Nemaha River Valley; Pictorial Review of CCC, History of CCC, George Adriance Review
David Tangeman, Topeka	Photographs: Fr. V. Kongs & Fr. C. Kramer, Pillow, 2 St. Aloysius medals
Mary Jane Fleming	35 scrapbook pages—Ft. Markley, activities & history, letters and photographs
Ferdinand & Marlene Deters	Book: St. Mary's Catholic Parish, St. Benedict, KS. 150 anniversary celebration
USD 442	10 Grade School desks, file cabinet, 5 bookcases
Kansas National Guard Museum, Topeka	Booklet: "A Guard In Peace & War, a History of the Kansas National Guard"
Sylvia Wohler, Clay Center	Oneida High School Annual, "The Cardinal" 1957 Oneida Grade School Memory book 1959-1960; ; Two Rose Domer booklets
Marcia Philbrick	Allen's Complete School Register, NMC, 1911—1918; 37 Abstract Deeds, Record Book #49, 1888-1889; 49 photographic prints and slides, NVHS,
Dr. James Lueger	Dr. Gilbert's 1947 Physician's Daily Record Book
Frank Lindemuth	Magazines: Kansas Barns & Legacies—County Courthouses; wheelchair
Weixelman Brothers	Two vintage plows, one vintage cultivator, harness
Rod, Lamoreaux, Waterville	Photo: NASA Astronauts in Frankfort, 1967
Page 2	

### King O'Malley

The California Researcher who is seeking information about King O'Malley, an Australian politician and community leader who was born in Nemaha County, has notified the Historical Society of new facts. Although she already knew "King O'Malley" was not his real name, she now believes he is an "Alexander". He was born on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1856, left Nemaha County in 1888 to make "amends". He is of Irish ancestry and lived in Nemaha County during his boyhood days. He is identified as Charles G. Alexander in Portland 1888 records. Other references to him are Chas. G Alexander, G. C. or C. G. Alexander.

D.P. Murphy's research of the family in Nemaha County finds over 40 Alexander family members buried in the Corning and Neuchatel cemeteries. If you have any information that might be helpful to these researchers, e-mail or call NCHS museum.

### KANSAS SAMPLER FESTIVAL, May 1 & 2 Leavenworth's Ray Miller Park

More than 250 Kansas exhibitors will be there to provide a sample of what there is to see, do, hear, taste, and buy in Kansas! It's a Kansas brochure come to life!

Goff Lions Club Annual  
Ham and Bean Feed  
(chicken noodle soup available)  
Saturday, Nov.13,2010  
Goff Community Center.  
11 till 2.  
pie, cornbread, ham sandwiches  
and fellowship.

Wildlife habitat & "Railroads of  
Nemaha County" displays.



## We Get Mail



From Florida:

I am seeking help searching for the grave of Mary E. (Grimes) Rardin (variously spelling the wife of Seneca S. Rardin, disabled Civil War Veteran who lived in what became Seneca, Kansas. His wife died sometime between 1867 and 1870 most likely in or near Seneca Kansas. I have been working on the family genealogy for more than fifty years and have been spending the last twenty looking for information on Seneca S. Rardin.

Seneca Rardin was a carpenter and was discharged for disability (damage to eyes) from Company D, 8th Kansas Infantry. The small settlement where he lived took the name Seneca. He is living there with his wife and children in the 1865 Census of Kansas. His wife died at Seneca (I cannot find anything on the date or her grave) and the children are with his sister-in-law in Marshall County. Due to his blindness he did receive a pension and lived with his children until his death in 1912..

Because the town of Seneca was named for him is there any records of him or any houses he helped construct in the area as a carpenter?

—Dr. Donald E. Gradeless

**Editor's Note:** There is no known evidence that Seneca received its name from Seneca Rardin. The town was established in 1857 by C. G. Scrafford, Royal Torrey, Samuel and Finley Lapin. According to Tennal's history, they changed the name from Castle Rock to Seneca.

From Tennessee:

I am writing for my father-in-law, Morris Werner, of Madison, TN; he is originally from Manhattan, KS and gets your newsletter. Morris is wondering if you would be able to locate his great-grandfather's home; an address would be great and a picture would also be helpful. His name was George W. Losee, born in 1820 in the East, moved to Seneca, KS and built his house in 1880. He was an accomplished carpenter, among other things.

Morris is 80 years old now and doesn't feel up to making the trip back to Kansas, but would like very much to see what the house looks like now. He said that as of 1961 the house was still "L" shaped, and located about 3 blocks north of the Gilford Hotel and on the East end of town.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

—Annelle Werner

**Editor's note:** The George W. Losee house was located at 212 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. A newer house was built in 1960 and remodeled in 1995. Monty Noland lives there. Do you have a picture of the original house in your scrapbook?

### E-Mail Subscriptions

If you'd like to receive your newsletter earlier, in color and help save NCHS copying and mailing expenses, please e-mail your request to: [nchs@rainbowtel.net](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net)

From Rochester, New York:

Thank you for your help today with the history of Seneca. If you have any further information about the origins of the Seneca's name, let us know.  
— Kim of law office

From Tonganoxie, KS

I am trying to find an ancestor by the name of Josef Stuke, who may have lived in Nemaha County. He was born Feb. 15, 1858 in Germany. His parents were Franz-Albert and Maria-Elisabeth Stuke. He had two brothers, Anton and Henry, that lived in Nemaha County. Do you have any records that I can search for Josef Stuke?  
—J. Stuke

From Atlanta, GA:

Hello! I have a couple questions - we will be visiting Nemaha County in early June - my grandparents lived in the Axtell area in the early 1900's.

Is there a historical museum open to the public in the Nemaha County area? If so, what days/times is the museum open?

S. McAllister

(Granddaughter of Rosa Coughlin Pilla and Frank Pilla)

### Wanted:

NCHS needs additional file cabinets for 8 x 5 inch cards in Genealogy Collection—Obituaries

May 2010 Pioneer Press Insert

A recent inquiry from Joel of New Orleans came to the museum requesting information on the NEMAHA STEAM BOTTLING WORKS that once bottled soda water in Seneca. The museum was able to provide photos from the Dressie and Draney Nemaha Steam Bottling Works on 3rd and Main (1906). In response, Joel shared the following: "The bottle that they used was manufactured by the American Bottle Company (Streator, ILL, 1905-1929). So much history has been lost over the years. I wrote a poem for my book on New Orleans several years ago that deals with the subject of lost history. I have attached a copy of it. P.S. a pontil is bottle that has been made utilizing a glass rod, a Hutch is the type of bottle in your picture which is the original POP bottle (the stopper never came out of the bottle, a person had to drink around it; invented by Charles Hutchinson in Chicago in 1882 and banned by the FDA in 1906). A crown is the type of bottle we drink out of now which was invented by Charles Painter in 1894. Best Regards, and Many Thanks, Joel."

**Do our readers have any information to share about the Nemaha Steam Bottling Works?**

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

Date: Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2010 -2011 Registration Form

Due on July 1, 2010

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 66538

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H) \$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (Life) \$200.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership \$50.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution-Memorial or Recognition of _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund (Windows/Doors) _____	

Due on July 1, 2010

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Memberships:      New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

*Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.*

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

**Annual Meeting      Burger Annex I      Tuesday, June 8, 2010**

Covered Dish Meal: 6:30 p.m.      Guest Speaker—Greg Newlin, Columnist      Annual Meeting: 7:00 p.m.



## LLEWELLYN CASTLE. by John T. Bristow ( Published in 1931), Part 5

Teddy Wessel's run of hard luck started before he left London. It seems he bought something, or thought he paid for something, he didn't get. (William Wessel, familiarly called "Teddy." came over in 1873. He is 89, and lives with his daughter, Mrs. John Chase, in Goff.) But Teddy can thank his stars that there was at least one crooked countryman in his close circle. Teddy trusted a friend to purchase first class passage for himself and family. The friend bought cheaper tickets on a slower ship, and pocketed the difference. The fast ship passed the slower one in mid-ocean and was lost, together with all on board, when one day out from New York.

A happy, and I believe equitable, solution of the matter would allow the reader who had a friend or relative among them the privilege of exempting such one, and thus still leave Teddy some targets for his arrows. For my own part, I think I should like to exempt that little nineteen year old boy, John Stowell. In later years, after he come to Wetmore and engaged in business, I worked for John Stowell in his lumber yard, and in his brick manufacturing plant, and finally as type-setter on his newspaper. He was not a crook.

I grew up along with those bally English and I think I knew them pretty well. They were not all rascals. The Colony section was only five miles away from Wetmore as the crow flies. And as the crow flew then so did I gallop my mustang along the prairie grass lane while carrying mail between Wetmore and Seneca, passing Llewellyn Castle on the way.

There were few fences in the way then. Just prairie grass and wild roses and more prairie grass. And lots of prairie chickens. I have seen acres of them at one time on the hillsides in the vicinity of Llewellyn Castle.

There was no blue-grass then. And no timber along the route anywhere until the Nemaha was reached just this side of Seneca, at the old Hazzard place.

And later, in 1887, when I was a compositor on T.J. Wolfley's Seneca Tribune, and made drives home with Sandy Sterling's livery team, practically all of the twenty-six miles of road was still only a winding trail. Willis J. Coburn, the contractor for that Star mail route, went with me on the first trip. He took me to the home of his old friend, John Radford, who had then left the Colony and was living on the old Scaffold place adjoining Seneca on the south. I put up with "Old Radidad", as we afterwards called him when he came to live in Wetmore, for about a month, and while they treated me kindly, I didn't like their English ways.

And when I announced my intentions of throwing up my job Willis Coburn said I should then put up at the old Fairchild Hotel, which was on a side street north from the upper end of the main street. It was a stone building. Besides being immaculately clean, the Fairchild's were related to the Jay Powers Family in Wetmore and that made a bond between us that held for the duration of my mail carrying activities. There were two stops on the way, one in the Abbey neighborhood, and one at Old Lincoln Town.

As compensation for my services as mail-carrier, I was paid fifty cents each way, up one day and back the next, twice a week. And I was glad to get that. Our mail-carriers here in Wetmore, covering about equal distance, with only two hours on the road, draw about seven dollars a day.

When Willis Coburn offered me the job I was short of the required age, sixteen, and I was wondering how I would get by without swearing to a lie, when our good old postmaster, Alvin McCreery, solved the problem for me. When he swore me in, he said, "Now, don't tell me your age." He shook his head, negatively, and repeated, "Don't tell me your age."

At the Radford home in Seneca, I learned enough about the old Colony to make a book, but much of it is now shrouded in a fog of haze. On the occasion of our first trip, Mr. Radford and Mr. Coburn discussed Colony matters freely in my presence. It was July, and it was out on the border of the big orchard which came right up to the back door, under the shade of an early harvest apple tree, where they sat and talked.

I have to admit that at the time I was more interested in the golden fruit hanging on the apple tree than I was in the conversation, but I got enough of it to know that there would be a good story in it, if I could but remember more clearly. Mr. Radford's agile mind ground out astonishing facts as steadily as a grist mill that afternoon. Whatever else may be said of John Radford, he was an educated man. And had a wonderful sense of humor. As I remember it, or partly remember it, the highlight of the afternoon's conversation, the thing that tickled the men most, was a racy romance that had budded, bloomed, and died at Llewellyn Castle. The male participants were of course Wetmore men, one artisan, one professional. But somewhere along the timeworn trail between that old apple tree and my present quarters, separated by three and fifty years, the details of that affair are lost. And like the characters who made it, that romance has crumbled into dust and is now part of the past. (end)

**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

113 North 6th Street  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
E-Mail: [nchs@rainbowtel.net](mailto:nchs@rainbowtel.net)  
DarlAnn Rial—Editor 785-294-1174

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*First Annual*  
**Heritage Days Golf Classic**

Saturday, October 2nd, 2010

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Shotgun Start: 9:00 a.m.

Spring Creek Golf Course

Seneca, Kansas

Three Person Scramble

Open to men and women

(Women's tees will be available)

\$40.00 per person

Registration includes:

Green fees/Golf cart/Entry Package

Lunch/Goody bag

**Proceeds**

to benefit the

**"Lest We Forget "**

Military Gallery Honoring All Veterans

of Nemaha County

At the Nemaha County Historical Museum, 113 North 6th,

Seneca, Kansas

Unveiled at the Museum Exhibits during Heritage Days 2010

Sunday, October 3, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

**Contact person for Golf Classic :**

**David Hutfles, Chairman**

**785-294-1381**

Contact e-mail: [hutflesd@gmail.com](mailto:hutflesd@gmail.com)



# Pioneer Press

August, September, October 2010

Volume 28, Issue 1

## BOARD REORGANIZES FOR 2011

The Nemaha County Historical Society's Directors reorganized at their July 13th Board Meeting by electing Anita Heiman as President, Richard Schmitz as Vice President, and DarlAnn Rial as Treasurer-Secretary for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

President Anita Heiman expressed appreciation to the board members who helped the Pony Express Preservation Society renovate the museum for the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Pony Express.

Joyce Olberding reported on the progress of Luke Runnebaum's Eagle Scout project, landscaping the grounds around the Historical Museum. The board approved Membership Chairman Alma Ackerman's proposal for the 2010—2011 membership drive. The board also discussed a proposal to be submitted to the City of Seneca for tours of the Seneca Hand-Dug Well, Heritage Days 2010 plans and a Historic Character Spook Tour of the museum on October 30th.

## NEWLIN SPEAKS AT ANNUAL MTG

The annual meeting of the Nemaha County Historical Society was held on June 8, 2010 in Burger Annex I. Over 20 people attended the covered dish supper and heard special speaker, Greg Newlin, Brown County Genealogist. Mr. Newlin entertained with stories of his adventures as a researcher and genealogist which has resulted in his writing career.

Following the speaker, Anita Heiman, president, opened the meeting and reviewed achievements of the past year. Dean Rial, Financial Chairman, gave the financial report noting recent expenditures for roof repair. The Fundraising Committee presented plans for the First Annual Tractor Cruise and Heritage Days Golf Classic and Open House.

The following slate of board candidates were approved to fill four board positions for three year terms: Eugene Visser, Anita Heiman, Richard Schmitz and Leanne Jones.

## Memorials Received

Clyde R. Jones  
1927—2010

Alfred A. Buser  
1923—2010

Dale Miller  
1925—2010

Norbert Hoffman  
1913—2010

Mary Ann York  
1934—2009

## 2010-2011 Schedule

August 10: Quarterly Board Meeting  
September 17-18: Hwy. 36 Garage Sale  
October 2: Heritage Days Golf Classic  
October 3: Heritage Days Open House  
October 30: Historical Spook Tour  
November 9: Quarterly Board Meeting  
February 8: Quarterly Board Meeting  
May 10: Quarterly Board Meeting  
May 15: Museum Open House  
June 14: Annual Meeting  
June 18: 2nd Annual Tractor Cruise

## New Donations To The Museum

Diane Rottinghaus	American Legion Program (baseball)
Robert Oenbring	Mary Elizabeth Oenbring research
Alice Koehler	Seneca Cornet Band picture 1915
Morris Werner, TN	Letters @ Ford Cemetery & Llewelyn Castle; George Losee land transactions.; 4 manuscripts
Bob & Alma Ackerman	Child manikin, Seneca Public School memobillia, Sheriff archives, historic postcards
Stacey Heinen	Three manikin heads
Eldon & Joyce Olberding	30 horseshoes, various types barbed wire; (1917) photo of Nemaha County National Army
Larry Swartz, Overland Park	Dr. Capsey Doctor's bag, antique cast cutter, Deke Swartz's work gloves; horn footstool
David Tangeman, Topeka	S W Bell Telephone Directory: April, 1939; Leo Tangeman Kaiser - Owner Certificate; Book: 1944 Coupon Book gas exemption permit; Boat Use Rationing permit, stamps and license
Marcia Philbrick	Nemaha County Genealogical Society's files, re- cords, research books and documents, photos
Velven York	1943 Sat Eve Post; 4 photos—Post Korean War; golf balls for Hwy 36 sale: Seneca High School sweater, homecoming mum, 2 yearbooks (1951 & 52); two file cabinets, newspapers
Mary Jane Fleming	Fort Markley memobillia, 1908 & 1909 SHS Year- books. Photo—C.E. Markley house & specifications
Evelyn Waters	Fur hat & box; fur collar; handmade blouse and nightgown made by her mother, Lena Melcher; 1950's baby crib
Eileen Kokenge	Book of State Minutes; Atlas of township maps
Rex Russell, Sabetha	Oneida Post Office photos, envelope of last stamp
Pony Express Museum	Two wall phones, 1898; one from Railroad depot
Frank Lindemuth	Table, Honda riding lawnmower, trailer; historical articles
Janet Ackerman Hicks, Emporia	Two manikin heads; two full size (male) manikins for military exhibit
Diane Barber , Kansas City, KS	Bertha Mealy's wedding dress (1929) St. P&P Par- ish House wedding
Harry and Donna McDaniels, Ozawkie, KS	Aunt Mabel Wileman's Seneca memobillia: photos, letters, Old Lincoln school papers, books
Frank Niehaus, Topeka	Kampler Switch photo, military news items, Moring Star #79 school register (1941)
City of Seneca	Vintage calendar, Specs for 1934 Swimming Pool, 1898 city map, Dept. of Interior of Canada 1919 US Road Map
Dorothy Pearl Murphy	Smith Hotel occupants Research of 1860 Census
Steve Sudbeck	Souvenirs, Plate & Certificate; railroads & depots
Gladys Parnell, Rossville	Documents—Pony Express Rider— Ed Sterling
Marietta K. Smith, KCK	Two paintings by Seneca Artist Roy Rogers
Norbert Hoffman Estate	Military artifacts, household & garage items
Keith Megill	WWII Chaplain Harold Megill letters, photos on DVD
Mary Jo Berges, Manhattan	Photograph of Smith Hotel

## HARSH WINTER

The severe winter of 2009-2010 was harsh to the Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence, which serves at the Nemaha County Historical Museum.

The main water line under the residence broke on the first day of thaw. Eisenbarth Plumbing replaced 20 feet of line with Bill Huerter providing the backhoe services. Bill also provided three snow removals of the driveway at the museum free of charge this year.

Hail damaged the roof and water flooded the second floor area in the library and school room. Insurance has covered the shingle and roof repair, but flaking of paint on second floor ceiling is not covered by insurance and needs scraping & painting. And then, the heavy snows caused settling to a newly discovered brick lined hand dug well. With professional assistance, the well has been filled and capped.

The heavy snow and strong winds have increased window deterioration on the historic jail and residence. Window restoration for all the windows is desperately needed. Since the building is on the National Registry of Historic Places, all repair projects are submitted to Kansas State Historical Society for review.

Currently NCHS is building a preservation fund to use as cash match for grant funds to restore windows.





## PRAIRIE GROVE SCHOOL HOUSE RESTORED

On July 12, 2010, Landowners Deb and Rex Farwell announced the completion of the Prairie Grove School house restoration. The Farwells have owned the school house since 2006 and started restoration work at that time. In 2010 Eric Schmitz rebuilt the Bell Tower to its original beauty with the help of old pictures.

The school house was constructed in 1886 on an acre of uncultivated farmland, located ten miles north of Seneca. The one-story, vernacular clapboard building measures 24 feet north to south by 42 feet east to west, has a eastern façade with double entrance, two six-foot entry doors topped with matching horizontal transom windows, which flank a centrally placed double-hung window. Limestone rock from the nearby quarry on Burger Creek serves as the foundation, path, front steps and front porch, which is made of concrete. The short wood-frame bell tower is capped with a mansard-roof belfry that is crowned by an ornate flagpole with weathervane. Diamond shaped shingles cover the belfry, which has pointed-arched louvered vents on four sides and houses the original, functioning bell. Narrow clapboard siding covers the exterior of the building. Three, 4/4 double hung, wooden sash windows (33 ½ inches x 83 inches) are equally spaced along the southern and northern sides of the building.

The interior space of the large central classroom measures 24 feet by 30 feet. The interior walls are wood lath and plaster, tongue and groove wainscoting accents the walls. The wainscoting measures 28 inches high and is capped with a chair rail. The classroom ceiling has been lowered to 8 feet. The two-inch wide oak floors are in good condition. A seven-inch, circular raised stage snugles between the cloakrooms (vestibules) on the eastern end of the room. The brick chimney rises from the middle of the west wall, where the school was originally heated with a pop-belly coal stove, but was later converted to a fuel oil heater. Six light fixtures hang from the ceiling.

The Prairie Grove School closed at the end of the 1964 school year and the land reverted back to the landowner. The building was sold at auction for \$220 to Och Worrick, who donated the building to an alumni association of 13 former students, called Old Settlers. They maintained the building and held yearly reunions until 2001 when only three members of the group remained. The interior and exterior are structurally sound and maintains a high degree of interior and exterior architectural integrity of the period. Prairie Grove School was accepted to the National Register of Historic Places on March 8, 2006. Interested parties can contact the Nemaha County Historical Society at 785-336-6366 for tours.

## Tractor Cruise Brings Dollars & Plans for Next Year



The tractor cruise sponsored as a fundraiser by the Nemaha County Historical Society was delayed an hour by the storms in the area on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, but still provided a fun time for people on fourteen tractors from Missouri, Belleville, Baileyville, Sabetha and Seneca, Kansas. The thirty mile cruise provided \$1,000 for the Military Exhibit at the museum. Next year's Tractor Cruise is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2011.

## **Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.**

**"Thanks" Roger Fisher** and the following sponsors of the **Tractor Cruise** fundraising event which benefited the museum's expanded military exhibit:

**Nemaha County Coop**

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**Todd Tractor**

**Morrill & James Bank, Sabetha**

**Insurance Services of Seneca**

**Total Look**

**M&B Tractor Repair**

**Next year's Tractor Cruise is scheduled for Saturday, June 18, 2011.**



## Correspondence Received

**From: Morris Werner,  
Tennessee:**

I am enclosing a brief resume of the land transactions between George Losee and his son-in-law, James Neill, as I understand them, as related by my mother, Jessie Neill Werner.

I have followed John T. Bristow's account of the British colony at Llewelyn Castle with a great deal of interest. I was well acquainted with the Mollineaux family. Josie (Tomlinson) Mollineaux was a sister of Gertrude (Tomlinson) Harris, mother of Enid, Robert and Dorothy who were our closest neighbors when I was growing up in the 1930s. Mr. Bristow says that Alfred Mollineaux was the only descendant of an original colony member to inherit land in \$25 purchased from the Union Pacific RR in 1870.

Mr. Bristow's experience driving the Star mail route for Willis J. Coburn from Wetmore to Seneca is also of interest, especially his description of the route through the Abbey (?) neighborhood and Old Lincoln. He says that "all of the twenty-six miles of road was still a winding trail" in 1887. The USGS 30-Minute quads of contemporary origin indicate that section line roads had replaced trails by this time. Apparently land owners had not fenced their land and the original roads remained in use.

Sincerely,  
Morris Werner  
Madison, TN

**From: Morris Werner, TN**

I enclose typescripts of the two manuscripts previously submitted. I also enclose a typescript of "Northeast Kansas Creeks" which's available on Kansas Heritage at the Univ. of Kansas. It was scanned but never proofed or formatted so is very difficult to read.

My thanks to Dorothy Pearl Murphy for agreeing to check census records for Nemaha County settlers before 1870. I hope the 1860 Census will establish the identity of the settler for whom Murphy Lake was named. Perhaps Dorothy Pearl Murphy already knows the answer. Other Murphy's of interest are Phoebe Ann (Worley) Murphy who owned a store at Lincoln, and Eliza Jane Murphy, wife of John Ford in the Ford community.

I told you I received a call two years ago from the pipeline contractor seeking information on the location of Murphy Lake and the Mormon cemetery. I presume their work is complete by now, and hope they did not dig up any bodies. The Eli Williams family said the bodies had been unearthed and dismembered by wolves and an estimated 40 bodies were probably reinterred in a single grave.

Edward East of the Texas Saints, member of Seth Millington Blair's 3rd Party, said that Nathaniel Greer and his son, John, were "buried half mile east of the creek...up on the hill." East's wife, Wilmirth, daughter of Nathaniel, lost her father, brother and 3 children; a fourth child died from measles at the end of the journey

Very truly, Morris Werner

Goff Lions Club Annual Ham and Bean Feed  
(chicken noodle soup available) Saturday, Nov.13,2010 Goff Community Center. 11 till 2. pie, cornbread, ham sandwiches and fellowship.

Wildlife habitat & "Railroads of Nemaha County" displays.

## TRAVELING EXHIBIT

The Board of Directors of the Nemaha County Historical Society voted at a recent quarterly meeting to share the Kelly Traveling Exhibit with all the communities of Nemaha County in hopes of building enthusiasm for establishing other traveling exhibits.

The small model 1915 town of Kelly and the display boards of photographs and text about early Kelly have traveled to four sites this summer. The Corning Bank hosted the exhibit for four weeks before it traveled to Bancroft for the Depot's Annual Picnic followed by a two week showing at the Merit Bank in Goff. Response was favorable! Other sites in Nemaha County will be contacted by President Anita Heiman to schedule the display .

August 2010 Pioneer Press

**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

113 North 6th Street  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, Kansas 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
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DarlAnn Rial—Editor 785-294-1174

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## 2009-2010 Financial Report

Income and Spending – Twelve Month Report  
7/01/2009 Through 6/30/2010

### INCOME CATEGORIES

### EXPENSE CATEGORIES

Contributions	7,871.13	Administrative	927.80
Dues	762.74	Contract Labor	4,861.50
Fundraisers	8,914.26	Fundraisers	5,352.46
Grants	14,518.28	Grants	22,799.00
Investment Income	1,579.92	Insurance	2,188.00
Memorials	1,620.00	Facilities	7,593.34
Other Income	3,620.14	Utilities	1,355.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,886.47</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,077.60</b>



# Pioneer Press

November, December 2010 January 2011

Volume 28, Issue 2



## 35<sup>TH</sup> HERITAGE DAYS "FALL" FESTIVAL

The 2010 Heritage Days Festival arrived with wind on Saturday and frost on Sunday, October 2-3. The chilly wind spurred the sixteen teams to the full 18 holes at the First Annual Heritage Golf Classic fundraiser at the Spring Creek Golf Course. The fundraiser provided \$2000 for the expanded military exhibit at the museum.

The Sunday Open House was a free adventure for the whole family which kicked off at 8 a.m. with Pastor Curtis Knapp, circuit rider preacher, giving a nondenominational devotional service on the lawn of the Old Stone Church at 6<sup>th</sup> and Main in Seneca. Starting at 10 a.m. and lasting until 4 p.m., children could pet the animals at Glynette Mitchell's Petting Zoo, ride in Doug Berkley's buggy to the Pony Express Museum, and view the Skeeze and Ackerman toy exhibits. A catered deli hot lunch was served from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to 120 guests and was eaten at the tables on the newly landscaped museum lawn. Educational exhibits included a quilt display from the artifacts of the museum and the contributing community. The Kansas Historical Society's trunk exhibit allowed guests to explore Kansas history through the quilts women made and used.

The highlight of the day was the videos showing historic World War II, Korea and Vietnam newscasts and interviews with local veterans at viewing centers scattered throughout Annex II. The final design for the "Lest We Forget" Nemaha County Historical Society's Military Exhibit was displayed along with the Kansas State Historical Society's Exhibit, "World War II in Kansas".

Other activities included: the traveling Kelly miniature 1915 town exhibit, "Wanted Posters" photographed in the 1879 and 1907 Pauly jail cells, "Settling Nemaha County" tours of the Historical Museum, and visits with selected vendors.

The day concluded with a drawing for a commemorative quilt, won by Galen Steinlage. All proceeds from the Heritage Days events will benefit the promotion and preservation of the Nemaha County Military Artifacts in an expanded display.

### In Honor Funds Received

Byron Lear  
Theresa Hutfles

### In Memory Funds Received

Ray Huninghake  
Barb Huninghake  
Bernadine Wessel

## 2010-2011 Schedule

November 9: Board Meeting

January 29: Celebrating KS  
Sesquicentennial

*Kansas State Historical Museum*



February 8: Board Meeting

May 10: Board Meeting

May 15: Open House

June 14: Annual Meeting

June 18: Tractor Cruise\*

July 12: Reorganization

August 9: Board Meeting

Sept. 16-17: Hwy. 36 Sale

October 1-2: Heritage Days"

\*tentative

## New Donations To The Museum

Tom Koch	Brothers Portable Typewriter
Diane Rottinghaus	Viet Nam Maps; Newspapers CT Anniversary Editions; Watkins Cook Book 1936
Tony Feldkamp	6 bottles, Seneca Bottling Co., 1925 roller skates
Verita Schmitz	Polio leg brace belonging to Virgil Schmitz
Morris Werner, TN	Manuscript: Kansas Pioneers Before 1870; a Select List: Santa Fe Trail, 1825; Council Bluffs Road 1834; Oregon & California Trail 1841; St. Joseph & California Road, 1844; Ft. Laramie Military Road, 1845; St. Joseph & Pottawatomie Road 1849; Ft. Riley Military Road 1853; Leavenworth & Pikes Peak Express 1859; Parallel Road 1859; Pony Express 1860; Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express 1860; Telegraph Road 1861; Butterfield Overland Dispatch 1865
Bob & Alma Ackerman	Military archives, vintage Red Cross magazines; postcard images 1918 Red Cross Bond sale; marquee
Jerry Ketter	Postcards: Snapshot of Johnny Johnson
Marilyn Ronnebaum	Historic wooden wagon, dollhouse, barn, doll ; teddy bear picture and 3 bears from Dr. Berkley's office, medical promo items and bottle opener collection
Toby and Byron Lear	Lear family photographs, documents; 1950 "Who's Who"; Farm handbooks 1938; 1940SHS graduating class picture/names; 1938 Fair Book; Newspapers of local, state and national interest; duffle bag, Navy uniforms
Al Buser Estate	1886 National Bank of Seneca ledgers, depression era bank correspondence, vintage Sabetha and Seneca photographs, bottles, safety deposit boxes; Seneca Public School memorabilia, Correspondence in German script
Mary Jane Fleming	Taffeta skirt and crinoline skirt;
Velven York	nurse cape; air-conditioner; 12 doz golf balls; Ed's Pharmacy License; US Army Driver's License & handbook BSA Woodworking handbook, 60 vintage kitchen magazines, 5 file boxes, possible Crandall carriage horseshoes
Janet Ackerman Hicks, Emporia	Two Viet Nam P.O.W. bracelets; vintage hair dryer; six manikin heads for military hats
Joseph Vaughan, Prairie Village	Three volume set, The Great Tzotzil Dictionary of Santo Domingo Zinacantan with Grammatical Analysis and Historical Commentary.
Luke Runnebaum	Relics dug up when preparing the ground for landscaping, his Eagle Scout Project
Eileen Kokenge	Quilt made by Mary Kokenge Kramer
Roseann Hunninghake	Gerald's graduation picture: 1942; Who Is Gerald?
Mary Ann Holsapple	German Nazi flag brought home - WWII
Denise Strathman	Wichman military uniforms, wedding dress & veil, tiara & vintage children's clothing; seven phonograph records
Larry Swartz, Overland Park	Dr. Capsey's military uniforms, American flag and 2 blood pressure machines
Mary Jane Engelken	Alfred Engelken's WWII uniforms & photo
Marcena Stallbaumer	Mary Gilbert's Silver tray and platter
Rodney Schmitz	Ten Seneca Movie posters; 1974
Richard Johnson, Oregon	Photos & genealogy documents of Clency/Walter families
Gerald Swart	Photos—Melvin Swart and Navy WWII discharge
Aurelia Stallbaumer	J F Kennedy memorabilia, books, picture, journals
Esther Proffitt	Letter Clips: Citizens Bank & Winterscheidt Feeds

### Correspondence:

Hello, I would like to request your help with my family history research which has led me to the counties of Nemaha and Shawnee in Kansas. I would be very willing to reimburse you for your time and expenses. I am currently located overseas, which is why I am emailing rather than writing. However, I can provide a U.S. mailing address and submit payment by mailed check. This mystery has been part of my family for years, and I appreciate any help you can provide.

My family research has reached a dead-end with this relative, who was my paternal great-great-great-grandfather and an early pioneer settler in Kansas:

Salem B. DODGE (often referred to as S.B. DODGE)

I would greatly appreciate any insight or information you can share on this family member, or how I might proceed in my research. With great thanks, Christine Amy Dodge

### From California:

As a project for my grandchildren, I am trying to identify the name and something about the family or person for whom a city, town, or other jurisdiction is named. Thus I would appreciate knowing for whom Gilman township in Nemaha County is named, dates, etc. Any and all the information you can provide about "Gilman" would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. RCGILMAN/CA

### THE COURIER-TRIBUNE



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## Correspondence Received

### From Colorado:

Hello! I'm working on a "Kansas Czech" history project and just stumbled across some Czechs in Nemaha County. I'm contacting you for more information, if available. In earlier years this group was referred to as Bohemians or sometimes Moravians. And of course from about 1918-1991 their land of origin was referred to as Czechoslovakia. Today it is the Czech Republic.

In looking at the 1900 Federal Census I've found the family names of Irsik-Korber, Eckel, Holand, Novak, Skoch, and Lackey. The Kabriel family is nearby in St. Bridgett Township of Marshall County. In Nemaha County in 1900 almost all of these people lived in the Clear Creek, Nemaha, and Richmond Townships. I've found 19 households, 21 immigrants and a household total of 98 people in the townships listed in 1900.

It is apparent that Germans, Irish and the Swiss were the predominant immigrant groups in these townships in 1900. But finding almost 100 Czechs in the extended family households denotes a significant number considering the fact that there were many such small groupings in Kansas. Of course everyone knows about the large Czech settlements like Republic County and the Wilson area. But I want to log and write about all the smaller groups as well. The group that I've found in NW Nemaha County counts!

Now my question! Finally! Are there any remaining signs of Czech culture in Nemaha County? Were there any Czech/Bohemian dance halls? Did the Czechs have a favorite church or cemetery? Are there any gravestones with distinctive Czech markings, i.e. Czech inscriptions? Are any such landmarks remaining? Or do you have a local contact person who might be able to help?

Thanks, Steve P

### From: Clay County, MO

7/5/10 Newsletter sent to NCHS by  
Greg Newlin, Sabetha

#### Miscellaneous Gleanings

from Microfilm of Early Clay County Newspapers:

April 9, 1915

#### Smithville's Claim to Fame

News Item: Jess Willard, the big Kansan, knocked Jack Johnson out in the 26th round, at Havana, Cuba on Monday, winning the world's heavyweight championship.

Smithville's claim to fame is hardly in the "I knew him when" class, but one of her citizens used to run a pool hall in Wamego, Kansas (Willard's home county), while another is a native of Nemaha County, Kansas and once rode a bicycle past Jess Willard's home.

#### Dear NCHS:

My name is Richard A. Couch and I am a member. I believe I recall seeing in at least one edition of the *Pioneer Press* inquiries as to whether or not the ancestral home was still standing. And that got me wondering the same so this note is to ask if I might employ someone there to find out and photograph whatever might still be there. Of course, I will pay for the work. My land owning ancestors at Baileyville included: \

- (1) Paternal 2nd ggparents Bela Clapp Bailey and wife Betsey Ann Bailey.
- (2) Cousin Monroe Bailey m. Nancy Jane Melendy.
- (3) Cousin George S. Melendy m. Caroline Bailey

Best Regards, Dick Couch

Hello:

I am with the Western Sonoma County Historical Society in Sebastopol, CA. We are in the discovery process of preparing a display board that we can move from event to event that will generate interest in the society. I saw your recent blog that discussed your "traveling display". I am very interested in how and what was used for the display. I'm thinking that this could be very beneficial to our area also. If you have any notes and/or photo's that would benefit us. I would be grateful if you would share.

Best regards, Mary- WSCHS

#### Goff Lions Club Annual Ham and Bean Feed

Saturday, Nov.13,2010  
Goff Community Center.  
11 till 2.

pie, cornbread, ham sandwiches and fellowship.  
Wildlife habitat & "Railroads of Nemaha County" displays.

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**Rainbow**  
COMMUNICATIONS



# Llewellyn Castle Examined

## The Workingmen's Cooperative Colony of Nemaha County

### Part 1

by

Gary R. Entz

In 1931 John T. Bristow published his reminiscences of Nemaha County's old English colony under the title of "Llewellyn Castle." Bristow, however, was not the settlement's first chronicler. In 1882 William G. Cutler wrote a short vignette of the colony, and in 1916 Ralph Tennal gave a slightly longer accounting. While Bristow's rendering is the most complete of the three, his story is also the most embellished. Bristow stated: "I grew up along with those bally English and I think I knew them pretty well." While he had known the English settlers, his tale of Llewellyn Castle was based entirely on the childhood memories of an outsider (Bristow was never a colony participant) that were written down nearly fifty years after the fact. Nemaha County's English colony was not founded by "misfits" or "rascals," as Bristow fondly recalled. Rather, it originated from the diligent efforts of one of London's most radical social reform organizations.

The people who immigrated to Nemaha County as part of the col-

ony were loyal followers of James "Bronterre" O'Brien and were known as O'Brienites. Bronterre O'Brien (1804-1864) was one of the intellectual leaders of the British Chartist movement. The People's Charter was a petition calling for democratic reforms in England. It was taken before Parliament in 1839, 1842, and again in 1848. It failed each time, and the Chartist movement collapsed after the last attempt. O'Brien, however, was not content to let the petition die, so in 1850 he created the National Reform League (NRL) to continue pressing for democratic reform in England. The NRL also adopted O'Brien's plan to nationalize all land in England and redistribute it on lease to individual citizens. The working-class members of the NRL embraced international socialism and readily joined Karl Marx and the First International Workingmen's Association in 1864 after O'Brien died. Throughout the 1860s, the O'Brienites hosted the London section of the International in their Soho headquarters. Despite the affiliation, Marx and the O'Brienites had sharp differences of opinion on questions of land tenure and currency reform. Most crucial of all, however, was the fact that the O'Brienites did not accept Marx's call for a violent proletarian revolution. The O'Brienites believed in peaceful democratic reform through the ballot box.

In 1868, as the rift with

Marx was widening and the hope for meaningful social reform in England was looking bleak, a former member of the NRL named John Days came to speak to his fellow O'Brienites. Back in 1854 Days had participated in an expedition the NRL had sent to America to search for possible locations where the group could plant a colony. The mission failed, and Days settled in California where he became a state legislator. However, as the transcontinental railroad was building across the West, Days returned to London

**"I'd be happy to answer anyone's questions or accept additional information at my email address: entzgr@gmail.com"**

and urged his colleagues to take advantage of the boundless prairie lands that the great Union Pa-

cific railway was opening up on the Great Plains. They agreed that the time was right and started forming an emigration company.

#### Editors Note:

After receiving Dr. Entz's inquiry about our past articles on this subject, he wrote a four part article at our invitation. These will be printed in two issues of the Pioneer Press. Part one examines who the settlers were and where they came from. Part two examines the founding of the colony. Part three examines the final collapse. The fourth part is a list Dr. Entz compiled of the people who participated in the colony project. Dr. Entz has written a 400-page history of the colony and has details that simply won't fit in a four short articles. He is willing to answer questions or gather more information by e-mail. (entzgr@gmail.com)



# Llewellyn Castle Examined

## The Workingmen's Cooperative Colony of Nemaha County

### Part 2

by

Gary R. Entz

In response to John Days' visit, in the summer and fall of 1868 members of the National Reform League formed a new organization that they called the Mutual Land, Emigration and Co-operative Colonization Company. Their plan was to build a communitarian settlement that would prove the social and economic theories of their founder, the late Bronterre O'Brien. After re-searching suitable locations, they settled on Nebraska and wrote a letter of inquiry to Nebraska Governor David Butler. Butler, after prodding from U.S. Ambassador Reverdy Johnson, replied in early 1869. He encouraged the group to come but could promise no land other than individual homestead claims.

Emboldened by the positive response from the United States, in April 1869 the group selected ten pioneers, with families, to make the initial voyage to America. Led by Edward Grainger Smith, the group sailed to New York and made port at Castle Garden in May. Two members of the party defected in New York, but the remainder pressed on. It was in New York

that Smith encountered land agents for the Central Branch, Union Pacific (CBUP) railroad and altered his destination for Atchison. From Atchison Smith scouted possible locations along the CBUP line and in June settled on a 640-acre section west of Wetmore in Nemaha County. In 1869 it was part of Granada Township, but today it is section 25 in Harrison Township. He also purchased an additional forty-acre lot in section 19 because it contained needed timber. The settlers relocated to their land, and John Stowell recalled upon first seeing the open landscape how impossible it would be "to convey the feeling of loneliness that came over the party."

Smith put the settlers to work on what they called the Workingmen's Cooperative Colony. Together they constructed: a communal dormitory, a forty-foot well lined with stone, fences, a stable, and an additional home. It was too late in the season to plant a crop, but land was divided into individual ten-acre allotments with a portion set aside for cooperative purposes. An extra infusion of cash from London allowed them to set up stores for the winter. Nevertheless, the first winter on the Kansas plains was difficult for the fifty-five year old Smith. He fell ill, did not recover when the spring came, and died in September 1870. Throughout much of his lingering infirmity, Smith was physically unable to provide consistent guidance for the colo-

nists. As a consequence, many of the English settlers drifted from company objectives. They worked on their individual allotments but neglected the collective farm intended to support the entire enterprise.

Because the colony remained dependent on financial support from London, company president Charles Murray came to Kansas in October 1870 to audit the colony books and restore stable leadership for the colonists. Murray was not chased away by a shotgun, as Bristow claimed, but his presence was temporary. Nevertheless, by the time he returned to London in December 1871, Murray believed that the unproductive and unprofitable settlement was on the right track.

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A Life Scout with the Boy Scouts Troop 71 in Seneca, Kansas, Luke Runnebaum spent his summer planning, digging, weeding, planting and watering the landscaping for the Nemaha County Historical Museum as his Eagle Scout project.

Luke's fellow scouts from Troop 71 helped unload and place the river gravel around the plants.



## The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc.

### Thanks the Sponsors of the First Annual Heritage Days Golf Classic

**Barbecue Sponsor:** \$500 from Peter V. Bieri of Lawrence in honor of his father, Reuben Bieri, and uncle, Harry Bieri. Both were born and raised around Bern, and served in the US Navy. Reuben retired from the Navy after 30 years of duty, and Uncle Harry gave his life at the Battle of Midway in June, 1942.

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*Proceeds to benefit the Design and Construction of an expanded military gallery in the Nemaha County Museum.*



## PAULY JAIL CORRESPONDENCE

My name is Jerry Kneifel and I am on the Board of Directors for the Platte County Nebraska Historical Society. We have just been donated a steel Pauly Jail enclosure that has two cells in it. Our enclosure was manufactured in 1877 and is therefore about the same vintage as your 1879 Pauly jail. Ours has been out of service since 1922 and therefore does not have most of the interior intact. I have contacted Pauly Jail Company and was told they know very little about their cells of that vintage. Their records were destroyed in the mid 1980's. My reason for contacting you is to request your assistance, by consultation, to help develop the history and facts associated with our jail cell. The following questions are centered around that purpose.

1- Each of our two cells have what I believe to be bunk brackets on the side walls. I would like to find out what type of bunks might have been in the cells with the intent of making some replicas of the original bunks. Do you have any photos, specifications or descriptions as to how the bunks were constructed?

2- In the back side of the two cell in the adjoining wall there appears to be a common heating vent or perhaps just an air vent for the two cells. Are these air vents or heating vents? If they are heating vents what was the source of heat?

3- On the outside of the jail cells and exterior to the corridor is a Lever Lock box. Our box is closed and we are unable to open it up since we do not have the key. Do you possess a key for your lever lock box? If you do what does the key look like? Is it a skeleton type key?

4- Our cell in the common corridor has a bathroom stool. It looks similar to modern porcelain stools but is made out of steel. Since I do not believe most of the building in 1877 had water closets, I am suspicious that this may have been added later. Do you have any knowledge as to what type of restroom facilities these jail cells may have had in the 1877 or 1879 era?

5- Do you possess any of the original documentation, specifications or perhaps a Pauly sales literature that gives me any hints about the manufacturing of the jail cells?

6- Do you have the name and telephone number of someone that is knowledgeable of the Pauly jail cells that I could talk to.

7- Since I am only about 200 miles from your Museum I am toying with the idea of making a trip to your facility to find out more about the details listed above. What are your visiting hours and months of operation? Do you feel a visit would benefit me to this end?

Any information that you may be able to share is greatly appreciated.

— Jerry K.

I am seeking a photograph of the school which was District #100 in Reilly Township. I believe the name of the school was Ware, but don't know for certain. Thanks for any help you can give me.

M.H., Manhattan

**Editor's Note:** District #100 is the "Forwaard" School.

## MAYAN RESEARCH RECEIVED

The Nemaha County Historical Society has accepted an offer from Joe H. Vaughan, Jr., of Prairie Village, Kansas to donate his great-uncle Paul Wilkinson's Mayan research to the museum. The three-volume set entitled, "The Great Tzotzil Dictionary of Santo Domingo Zinacantan...with Grammatical Analysis and Historical Commentary" has been documented by the Smithsonian Institution as an important contribution to all of the subsequent studies of the 20th Century. The author/editor is Robert M. Laughlin with John B. Haviland.

Authentication can be found in the upper right-hand corner of the title page in Volume 1 where Laughlin wrote:

"To Elizabeth Vaughan, who brought her uncle to life for me." signed, Robert M. Laughlin.

Paul Wilkinson, born in Seneca to Western E. "West" Wilkinson, editor and publisher of the "Seneca Courier" for several decades in the late 1800's, became a distinguished anthropologist and was a part of U.S. Government's research into the early Mayan Cultures in South America. Copies of these three volumes of Paul's research are also in the collections of KU, KSHS and Washburn U.



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**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

113 North 6th Street  
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Photo Postcard (Stone Church tower in background) addressed to Gertrude Wempe in Lincoln, Nebraska; card says: "Dear Gertie: This is the way we were crowded when Bryan was in Seneca. We are all well and hope you are the same." Postmark is 1903. Donated by Sally Lauer

William Jennings Bryan (March 19, 1860 – July 26, 1925) was an American politician in the late-19th and early-20th centuries. He was a dominant force in the liberal wing of the Democratic Party, standing three times as its candidate for President of the United States (1896, 1900 and 1908). He served in the United States Congress briefly as a Representative from Nebraska and was the 41st United States Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson, 1913-1916. Bryan was a devout Presbyterian, a supporter of popular democracy, an enemy of gold, banks and railroads, a leader of the silverite movement in the 1890s, a peace advocate, a prohibitionist, and an opponent of Darwinism on religious grounds. With his deep, commanding voice and wide travels, he was one of the best known orators and lecturers of the era.



# PIONEER PRESS

February, March, April 2011

Volume 28, Issue 3



## Nemaha County Historical Society accepts donation and commits to Preservation of Historic Building

Robert Ackerman, secretary of Seneca Lodge #39 AF & AM of Kansas, handed the Seneca Masonic Temple's keys to Anita Heiman, President of the Nemaha County Historical Society at the November Quarterly Board Meeting. Mr. Ackerman emphasized that the 1917 building and most of the contents were being donated without legal restrictions on the utilization of the property. The Board of Directors accepted the donation and agreed to preserve the building and contents. The project to restore the roof to original design, seal the basement walls and inventory the contents will begin in the spring of 2011. The board is accessing plans to house the expanded Military Exhibit in the building.



St. John's Day, June 1918 Dedication Program

## Volunteers Coordinate Tea Party



Recently Joyce Olberding and Diane Rottinghaus, Nemaha County Historical Society volunteers coordinated a visit to the Country Place Retirement home with a collection of hats from the museum. The ladies of Country Place tried on hats and enjoyed tea and cookies. Another visit is scheduled for June 2011.

## Board of Directors

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Vice President  
DarlAnn Rial,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Harry Stewart,  
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Eugene Visser, Sales  
Joyce Olberding,  
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Frances Davis, Bancroft  
Clara Reinecke,  
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Leanne Jones  
Dean Rial, Financial  
Alma Ackerman,  
Membership

## Staff

Diane Rottinghaus,  
Director  
Mary Steinlage,  
Librarian  
Dorothy Pearl Murphy,  
Research  
Lillian Engelken,  
Curator

## New Donations To The Museum

Al Buser Estate	18 hats, 74 unidentified photographs, vintage newspapers, Seneca High newspaper 1971; 1896 Bank Charter Child's vintage dress, shoes
Lorestine Schmelzle	Tape Dispenser used in egg business
Elizabeth Love, Manhattan, KS	Scrapbook, "The Girl Graduate - Her Own Book", Oneida High School, 1913; Iscah Marian Zahm.
Sally Lauer	Velvet Crazy quilt, cupboard from 1896 court house.
Marilyn Ronnebaum	Halmark Ornaments; Vintage Magazines, Auto hood decorations; doll shoes, vintage toys, kitchen items
Ellen Winkler	Photographs & newspaper accounts of Burger donations; 1993 & 1995
Bob & Alma Ackerman	Photo postcard of Seneca depot 1910
Jack Kuenzi, Bern	Leon John Bohm's military artifacts, feather beds, jacket, stuffed toys
Vernon Barnes, Wamego	Research and photos of Jesse L. and Virgil "Zeke" Barnes, Kansas Sports Hall of Fame Nominations
Dorothy Mae Koch	Seneca Public High School memorial plate
Anonymous	Seven drawer file cabinet for obituary collection
Dorothy Pearl Murphy	Quilt made with cloth squares found in the museum
Waters	Book "Heart Songs, Melodies of Days Gone By"
Masonic Lodge #39 AF & AM of Kansas	Masonic Temple building and most of the contents

*2nd Annual Heritage Days Golf Classic*  
*Is Now Scheduled for Spring Creek Golf Course*  
*Saturday, October 1st, 2011; Shotgun Start 10 a.m.*

*Proceeds to benefit the*  
**the Design and construction of the**  
**expanded military gallery in the Memorial Hall,**  
**formerly Masonic Temple .**

### Correspondence

Oregon City, OR

After years of collecting and research I have decided to write a book on Co D of the 8th Kansas Infantry. Most of the members of that company came from Nemaha County. I hope to make a trip to your museum soon. Also, if you can be of help to me in locating any photos of former members of the 8th, grave sites, descendants of those who still live in Nemaha County or virtually anything pertaining to the 8th Kansas I would be most appreciative. Sincerely, Marc Trueb

503-715-6225

### 2011 Schedule

January 29: Celebrating KS Sesquicentennial

*Kansas State Historical Museum*

February 8: Board Meeting

May 10: Board Meeting

May 15: Open House

June 14: Annual Meeting

June 18: Tractor Cruise

July 12: Reorganization

July 25: Car Show

August 9: Board Meeting

Sept. 16-17: Hwy. 36 Sale

October 1-2: Heritage Days

### THE COURIER-TRIBUNE



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## Genealogy Correspondence Received

Hello,  
I am hoping you can help me. I am from Marshall County and have been researching my family history for over 15 years. I live in Ohio now. Anyway, I believe some clues to my family's history lie in Nemaha County. My ancestors lived in the St. Bridget/Axtell area, and, I believe, they had brothers/sisters who settled in Nemaha. If you could help me with these things, I am willing to pay research fees.

\* I have run across an Ellen Ryan, born about 1859 in Iowa. Her father's first name unknown, would have been born within 5-10 years of 1829 and had a sister, also named Ellen Ryan. His sister, Ellen, married Michael Shaughnessy (my great, great grandfather). I'm hoping to locate my Ellen's brother, and through him, her father. Ellen (Ryan) Shaughnessy's neice, Ellen Ryan, is the key. I found a little piece in the Axtell Anchor on 17 Apr 1884 that stated "Miss Ellen Ryan, from Seneca, came up Sunday to make a short visit to her aunt, Mrs. Shaughnessy." Any help you can provide to locate Ellen Ryan and her father in Nemaha County would be wonderful! My Ellen died the following year.

\* There was an Edward Shaughnessy, born about 1823 in Ireland. He lived in Marshall county for a while and when he died on 30 May 1893 he was buried in the St. Bridget Cemetery. I believe he was living in Nemaha County at the time of his death, and that my Michael Shaughnessy was his brother. I am basing my theory on some documents I have found in various places.

\* In Marshall County, there is a Quit Claim Deed dated 28 Mar 1900, with Grantors "Mary Shaughnessy a widow & Annie Shaughnessy heirs of Edward Shaughnessy, dec." and Grantee "Michael Shaughnessy, Sr." that

Was notarized in Nemaha County. There is also a Guardian's Deed dated 3 May 1900, with Grantors "Mary Shaughnessy Guardian of Andrew, Michael, Catherine, Ellen, Julia, Bridget & Thomas Shaughnessy of Nemaha County," and Grantee "Michael Shaughnessy, Sr." Both of these were filed together on 4 May 1900.

\* My Michael Shaughnessy was married in Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana in 1852. An Edward Shaughnessy married a Mary Doyle in 1849 in the same place. The Edward that shows up in Kansas is also married to a Mary. I believe he is the same person.

\* Lois Cohorst (Marysville) wrote a piece called "Grandsons of the Pioneers: Michael O'Shaughnessy Farm from the Century Farm Saga" several years ago. I don't know if it was ever published, but she gave me a copy. She had interviewed many members of the Shaughnessy family for her material. In her document, she states that my Michael Shaughnessy came to America with 3 brothers. They all separated, but "his brother, Edward, came to Marshall County some time later."

\* Finally, when my Michael lived in Indiana, he appeared in the 1850 census as a "shoemaker" and one of the items he passed down to his descendants was a shoe-making apparatus (now owned by Sean Shaughnessy). I found a piece in the Axtell Anchor on 18 Oct 1883 that states "Boots and Shoes: Edward Shaughnessy came here from St. Louis, about four years ago, and in that time has built up a good trade in boots and shoes, which is to his credit." This may be coincidence, but I think I should follow up on that lead!

Thanks for your help. I am contacting the Nemaha County Clerk to see if they have a death record for Edward Shaughnessy. If they do, I will let you know so that we do not duplicate one another's efforts.

Crystal Schulte

Hello:

I am looking for pictures or information about my parents who grew up in Seneca. Mary Lou Williams and Kenneth James Gilsdorf are their names. Kenneth went to St Peter and Paul catholic grade school. Mary was born in 1926. Kenneth's family moved to the south side Seneca in 1928. They had 5 milk cows and sold milk to the grocery store and neighbors. Kenneth dad was William Henry Gilsdorf and he worked selling Morman mineral, etc.

I am looking for any pictures or information about Seneca and the surrounding area about that time until the end of the 1930's.

Do you have any information?  
Thanks,  
Michael

Doug & Sharon Ackerman

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# Llewellyn Castle Examined

## The Workingmen's Cooperative Colony of Nemaha County

### Part 3

by

Gary R. Entz

In the summer of 1870, the London-based Board of Directors for the Workingmen's Cooperative Colony in Kansas began drawing up plans for an elaborate utopian city. Had it come to fruition, the city would have boasted a massive central administrative complex surrounded four concentric circles of buildings capable of housing over 500 families. The design called for pneumatic tubes for communication, covered tramways for transportation, and centralized gas, plumbing, and steam heat piped to every home. It would have been a remarkable feat had the settlers been able to pull it off.

After Edward Smith's death in September and Charles Murray's subsequent audit of the colony books, it became clear that plans for a utopian village would have to be shelved. Murray left Kansas in December 1871, and Charles McCarthy replaced him as colony superintendent. McCarthy, one of the original colonists, was dedicated to Bronterre O'Brien's philosophy, but he lacked the organizational skills necessary to manage the collective farm. Meager harvests continued, and support from London began to lag. By the summer of 1872, McCarthy was forced to find employment in Chicago in order to feed his own family. With his de-

parture, the colony once again was leaderless.

Several individual colonists stepped forward to take McCarthy's place, most notably William Beeby and later William Wessel. McCarthy wasn't the only settler abandoning the colony, which made it difficult for Beeby and Wessel to increase production on the collective farm. Without stable leadership the colony stumbled toward insolvency. However, toward the end of 1872, a London investor named Frederick Wilson became enamored with the collectivist ideal of the Kansas colony. He began pouring his own money into the endeavor and kept the settlement financially afloat for another year. Nevertheless, as 1873 came to a close it became clear that if the colony was to succeed then an experienced superintendent was necessary.

In the spring of 1874, John Radford arrived in Kansas to take leadership of the colony. Radford had been a follower of Bronterre O'Brien's since the 1850s and was well-versed in his social philosophy. Working closely with John Molineaux, Radford brought the wayward colonists back in line and nearly succeeded in making the collective farm productive. Unfortunately, the grasshopper plague of 1874 destroyed his labors. The disillusioned colonists resettled in neighboring towns, and in London Wilson became responsible for the mortgage. The land was made available to individual colonists, and by 1880

most of it had been sold.

The O'Brienites had been active socialists in London, and in Kansas they readily became outspoken proponents for political and social reform. John Fuller in Seneca often regaled audiences with his favorite talk, "wealth is not worth."

**"I'd be happy to answer anyone's questions or accept additional information at my email address: [entzgr@gmail.com](mailto:entzgr@gmail.com)"**

He went on to author The Art of Coppersmithing, a book that remains in print to this day. In Wetmore, John Stowell became a leading temperance advocate and won elective office in the city. John Radford became an important member of the Populist Party in neighboring Brown County and played significant role in the 1892 gubernatorial campaign.

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# Llewellyn Castle Examined

## The Workingmen's Cooperative Colony of Nemaha County

### Part 4

by

Gary R. Entz

A list of shareholders and family members of the Mutual Land, Emigration, and Cooperative Colonization Company that emigrated from England to Nemaha County, Kansas. This listing is incomplete as I have not yet accounted for all the wives and children of a number of the men.

--Gary R. Entz

<u>Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
John Ambrose	Common Laborer
Mary Ambrose	Wife of John
Thomas Ashton	Agriculturalist
William	
Horace	
William Beeby	Painter/Agriculturalist
Robert Beilby	Laborer/Agriculturalist
Jane Beilby	Wife of Robert
Harriet	
Sophia	
+ Mary Anne	
Henry Belshaw	Laborer/Agriculturalist
Edward Booker	Carpenter
William Byford	Railway Porter
Robert Clark	Architect
John Coney	Carpenter
George Cox	Carpenter
Jane Cox	Wife of George
Bill	
George P.	
Art	
Harry	
Ada	
Harriet	
Fred	
Sophia Days	Unknown
William Delbridge	Stone Mason
George Dutch	Carman
Mrs. G. Dutch	Wife of George
William Dutch	Horse Keeper
Walter Edgington	Joiner/Agriculturalist
William Edwards	Joiner/Agriculturalist
x John Fuller	Coppersmith

Ann Fuller	Wife of John
Henry	
John, Jr.	
William	
Walter	
Martha	
Helena	
A.D.G. Hazel	Engine Fitter
George Hearn	Undertaker
Robert Hill	Carpenter/Joiner
Sophia	
William Jenkins	Painter/Paper Hanger
x Charles McCarthy	Laborer
Mary McCarthy	Wife of Charles
Charles, Jr.	
Thomas	
Eugene	
Justin	
Felix McCarthy	Lithographic Printer
Isaac May	Laborer
John R. Molineux	Painter
Sarah Molineux	
Sarah	
Ellen	
+ Alfred	
Josiah Morley	Bricklayer
John Mourdaunt	Wood Turner
*x Charles Murray	Boot Closer
Thomas Neil	Engineer
Sarah Plowman	Dealer
x John Radford	Engraver/Metal Worker
Maria Radford	Wife of John
Elizabeth	
Jane	
Mary	
William	
John Maximilian	
James	
Robert Rogers	Lawyer
Edward Rooney	Warehouseman/Agriculturalist
*† Charles Sargood	Carpenter
*† James Sargood	Carpenter
Thomas Savings	Printer/Agriculturalist
† John Shallis	Tanner
x Edward G. Smith	Carpenter
Elizabeth Smith	Wife of Edward
John Stowell	Warehouseman
John Trent	Plasterer/Agriculturalist
George Walker	Lawyer
Mrs. W. Walker	Unknown
George Weston	Carpenter/Agriculturalist
William Wessell	Agriculturalist/Collector
* Returned to England	
† Never settled on the colony	
+ Born on the colony	
x Served as colony superintendent	

**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

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**The Workingmen's Cooperative Colony  
of Nemaha County  
Part 4 (continued)**

by

Gary R. Entz

After the colony collapsed, several shareholders in the Mutual Land, Emigration and Cooperative Colonization Company immigrated to Kansas to join family or to purchase former colony land.

Name

**William Fish, James Slark, William Worscester**

In addition to the above, John T. Bristow mentioned a small number of family names that he claimed came to Nemaha County, Kansas, from England as part of the colony. These names are unconfirmed by any other source, although a few do have corresponding names mentioned as shareholders in company records.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Corresponding Shareholder</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Corresponding Shareholder</u>
William Conover	none	Morden family	John Mourdant
Gates family	none	Perry family	Alfred Perry
Helsby family	none	Minnerva	Minnie Rogers
McConwell family	none	Weeks family	none
Mrs. Terbit	none		

**The End**



# Pioneer Press

May-June-July 2011

Volume 28, Issue 4



## NCHS Volunteers Scheduled to Begin Inventory Of the Masonic Temple Soon



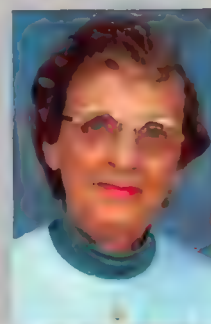
The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. has filed for a \$10,000 grant to fund, in part, the expansion of the "Lest We Forget" - Settling Nemaha County Project. The research, collections and management of exhibition will help interpret the story of Freemasonry and Military activity in Nemaha County for 150 years. The Nemaha County Historical Society is working to develop an attraction in the recently gifted Masonic Temple building. Donation of

this property will allow the Nemaha County Museum to continue its mission of preserving the settlement and living heritage of Nemaha County, as well as interpreting the influence of the military and Freemasonry and Knights of Columbus disciplines upon the past, present and future settlers. This project will transform an underutilized building into an area that will provide room for community events while displaying artifacts in mobile display cases that can be arranged within the building according to the occasion. On going fundraisers are planned with a Tractor Cruise on June 18th and Golf Classic on October 1st.

Volunteers plan to have a preliminary exhibit in the Masonic Temple for viewing at Heritage Days Festival on Sunday, October 2nd. Special speakers and exhibitors have accepted invitations for the October 2nd event scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.



### *Memorials Received In Memory of Theresa Rettele*



1936-2011

### *Memorial Received In Memory of Leona M. Lueger*



1925-2011

  
**Rainbow**  
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## New To The Museum

## Pending Board Approval

Eunice S. Barrow, Silver-  
ton, OR

Photograph of great-grandparents: Mary Frances Dunfee and Mark Stephens born 1842 Logansport, IN; died Sept. 21, 1911, Nemaha County

Greg Newlin

Research—Seneca name origin; genealogy—*Descendants of Augustus Jacob Wolfley*; 10 copies of booklet: "Old Albany, 150 years" for sale @ \$15

Morris Werner, Madison, TN

Research: African American slaves in Nemaha County—Underground RR or Freedmans Bureau

Greg Strohm, Merriam, KS

"The Stars and Stripes" newspaper, Paris, France edition; November 13, 1918 issue

Mary Steinlage

1898 Photograph of John Heinrich Niehues family  
1936 Steinlage Farm photos

Virgil "Red" Kelley Estate  
Centralia

Artifacts; Military, Freemasonry, Shriners & Eastern Star & Red Kelley's Centralia store & Home

Marilyn Ronnebaum

1898 Child's Book, Vintage Newspapers & books; Medical Collections; Crystal and Toys

Nemaha Valley High School  
Library

Research Magazine collection includes:  
*Time* from August 1968 to end of 2010.  
*Newsweek* from Jan. 1968 to end of 2010  
Readers Guide to Periodical Literature 1965 to 1993 (index to magazines)  
Hardbound copies of *Time* from the 30s and 40s (1937, 1938, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945)

Marshall County Historical  
Society

Nemaha County Railroad (1925), SPS photos & Goff area lamb's wool filled quilts; Baileyville & SP&P '54 & '56 High School Graduation Announcements

Ruth Hoskins

1952 Wedding Dress, hat and veil; wedding picture

Alma & Bob Ackerman  
Doug & Sharon Ackerman

Book: Statue—John James Ingalls (1905); two manikins, card display, Military scarf and handkerchief, tour guide ropes; Masonic Archives; vintage juicer; 1889 press, 1949 ticket machine

Dean & DarlAnn Rial

Five Books: "The Better Angels of Our Nature" Freemasonry in the American Civil War; author Michael A. Halleran; for sale @ \$25

## Board of Directors

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Richard Schmitz, Vice President

DarlAnn Rial, Secretary-Treasurer

Harry Stewart, Maintenance

Eugene Visser, Sales

Joyce Olberding, Landscaping

Frances Davis, Bancroft

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Diane Rottinghaus, Director

Mary Steinlage, Librarian

Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Research

Lillian Engelken, Curator

634 North 11th,

Seneca, KS



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## Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Covered Dish Meal: 6:30 p.m.

**7:00 p.m. Special Speaker:** Our Humanities consultant, Sandra Reddish, is a Museum Technician for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Museum at Ft. Riley, Kansas. She is also a Phd student at Kansas State University. She received her M.A. in Public History from Wichita State University. She is a member of the National Council on Public History and the International Society for First World War Studies.

**7:30 p.m. Election of Four Directors to NCHS Board**

Burger Annex I, Nemaha County Historical Museum, 113 North 6th  
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## THE COURIER-TRIBUNE



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## Genealogy Correspondence Received

Hi! I'm seeking information on Cornelius Arthur Hale who is buried in the Ford Cemetery. Perhaps a burial record of the cemetery will name the parents of the deceased. Cornelius Arthur Hale (1822 to 1898) who was born in Kentucky, lived a time in Missouri, then lived near Seneca KS from the 1850's until his death on 11 Dec 1898. His wife was Mary Ann Best.

In particular I am searching for documentation of the identity of his parents so any objective source that might mention his parents would be very helpful such as a death certificate, obituary notice, biography or any other item.

Can you help me in this search or refer me to the proper authority to check older records?

Please let me know what I can send in the way of fees, or expenses.

thank you,

Barb: Darlington, WI 53530

NCHS:

My brothers and I are very happy that your museum is interested in this November 13, 1918 issue of The Stars and Stripes newspaper. It was quite a shock when we discovered it at the bottom of a trunk while going through our mothers estate. None of us knew it existed. It is a bit worn at the folds due to the poor storage site but aside from that it is quite readable. The Stars and Stripes website has copies of all editions that can be downloaded from their website so I have that copy to keep for our family. It turns out that 1918 was the inaugural year at the magazine as well.

One nice bit of discovery for us was the address from Uncle Arthur in Paris France to our Grandfather, his brother Winn, who was then residing in Centralia, Kansas. None of us knew he had served in WWI. We thought that Uncle's military service was all peace time. Perhaps that is what inspired our Father and his brother Paul to enlist in WWII.

Please drop us a note when your military exhibit is ready for public viewing. Greg Winn Strohm Merriam, KS

## SENECA NAME ORIGIN ??

Sent by Greg Newlin, found while researching for something else; Found in "History of Kansas Newspapers", (1854 to Jan. 1, 1916) page 249:

*Seneca: Originally called Rock Castle, name soon changed to Seneca, after Seneca County, Ohio; Industries—brick and tile plant; municipal electric light and waterworks system, telephones; is on the St. Joseph & Grand Island and Missouri Pacific railways.*

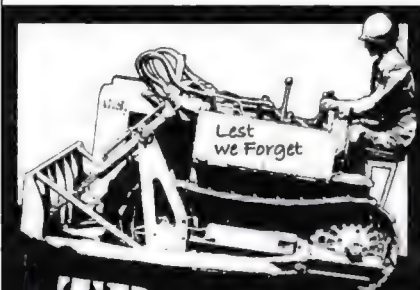
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★ CRUISE**

**NEMAHA COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**June 18, 2011**

**Seneca City Park**

**BIG "B"**



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#### African-American Slave Research

I am researching African American slave related families who were early settlers in Nemaha County on the Underground RR or Freedman's Bureau. Relationships and dates are mostly from Cletus Suther's records available at the Nemaha County Historical Museum. Note that the Holden, Murphy and Worley families were from Cherokee Co., GA and were related by marriage before coming to Kansas on the Underground Railroad in 1862.

William, s/o John Franklin and Phoebe Ann (Worley) Murphy was 3 years old when he came to Nemaha County with his parents.

William Washington Worley b. 1812 was the patriarch of the Worley clan. The siblings, Charles, Jane and Cora, were perhaps children of Joseph and Mary (Baker) Holden, buried in the Albany cemetery.

Phoebe Ann Worley (Murphy) is listed in the household of William Washington Worley in 1870 and was a widow with two sons: William 10 years and Julian 9 years. Apparently she was sole proprietor of the Old Lincoln store in 1870, and married Joseph Hocker at a later date.

The Masterson and Roundtree families were from Kentucky and were re-settled in Nemaha County by the Freeman's Bureau and given grants of land in the Corning community.

Worley children attended Harris School District 42 and married into the white community. Winifred married William Bliesner and (2) Edward Henning. She died in 1957 and is buried in Corning cemetery. The Hennings lived 1/2 mile east of Corning. Ed was a veterinarian. His wife was reclusive and had little contact with the neighbors. The fact that she was of African American descent and granddaughter of a slave seems to have been forgotten by her contemporaries. I don't recall ever having seen Mrs. Henning, although we passed her home several times per week going and coming from Corning.

The Masters & Warren Cemetery is located 2 1/2 miles north of Corning on K63 and 1/2 mile east on north side of road with fence. It contains only four marked graves: William Washington Worley and wife, Licena Holden, and

Elijah Holden and wife Mary "Polly" Reese, parents of Licena. Origin of the name, Masters and Warren is obscure, perhaps "Masters" is an abbreviation for "Masterson."

Pleasant Hill (Harris) cemetery is located 1 1/2 miles north of Corning on K63, 2 miles east and 1/2 mile north on the east side of the road. It is enclosed on two sides by an Osage Orange hedge with cottonwood trees on the other two sides. The cottonwoods died during the drought of the 1930's. It is abandoned and no longer accessible to the public. The cemetery was served by a cottonwood bordered lane from a north-south road which bisected the section until 1912. Cedar trees and decorative shrubbery grow wild. There are about 30 marked graves and several half filled vaults which mark the graves of Benjamin Harris and members of the Rucker family who were removed to Corning cemetery about 1900.

Thanks for printing my list in the newsletter. I hope to get feedback from descendants still living in Nemaha County.

Early settlers of Nemaha County are respected for their role in making Kansas a free state. None are more deserving of respect than those escaped slaves who made their way to freedom in Kansas on the Underground Railroad.

Very truly,

Morris Werner

200 E. Webster Apt. 816

Madison, TN 27115

#### LIST OF Freedmans Bureau & Underground Railroad in Nemaha CO

**Holden, Charles** 1830-94 s/o Joseph & Mary (Baker) m. Susan E. 1839-1873. Underground RR 1862 (Tennel)

**Holden, Cora** m. John Masterson 1862 Underground RR (Tennal)

**Holden, Jane** & Thomas Frame, Albany 1862 Underground RR (Tennal)

**Holden, Joseph** & Mary (Baker or Barber) Albany Cem. (J. Holden owned 10 acres east edge of Albany (1912) Nemaha Co. Atlas.

**Holden, Licena** 1820-98 d/o Elijah & Mary (Reese) m. William Washington

Worley 1848, Cherokee Co., GA; Masters & Warren cemetery

**Holden, Milo** 1869-1950 s/o Charles & Susan m Delia (Moulton) 1868-1910 (2) Clara (Donaldson)

**Masterson, Alva** 1893-1917 d. Camp Funston; Corning cemetery

**Masterson, Charles** 1865-1932 s/o John & Leah (Collins) m. Sidney (Francis) (2) Lucinda (Mitchell) Corning cemetery

**Masterson, Clarence** m. Mary (Emanuel) 1851-1930 Corning cemetery

**Masterson, Ernest** 1878-1970 s/o George & Mary

**Masterson, George W.** 1866-1938 m. Mary 1863-1929 d/o Frederick & Mary (Striebler)

**Masterson, John F.** m. Leah (Collins) 1841-1919 Corning cemetery

**Murphy, John Franklin** 1836 m. Phoebe Ann (Worley) Cherokee Co., GA;

**Murphy, William B.** 1859-41 s/o John F. & Phoebe Ann (Worley) b. Cherokee Co., GA; Seneca Cemetery

**Roundtree, Cecil H.** d. 1922 s/o Daniel & Amanda (Ford) Corning

**Roundtree, Daniel** 1843-1918 b. KY m. Amanda (Ford) Corning cemetery

**Roundtree, Eugene** m Alice (Denton) 1809-78 Sabetha Cemetery

**Roundtree, Homer** 1866-1938 s/o Daniel & Amanda (Ford) m. Edith (Stone) 1869-1975 Seneca cemetery

**Roundtree, Lena Loretta** 1900-91 Sabetha cemetery

**Roundtree, Levi B.** d. 1991, bur. Albany cemetery

**Roundtree, Thomas** 1865-1950 s/o Daniel & Amanda (Ford) m. Minnie (Yant) Corning cemetery

**Roundtree, Morris** s/o Daniel & Amanda (Ford) m. Gertrude (Luckens) 1879-1909 Woodlawn cemetery

**Russell, Daniel** Albany 1862 on Underground RR (Tennal)

**Russell, Lena** Albany 1862, sister of Daniel

**Worley, Joseph Brown** Elijah 1862-1922 m. Adda (Randel) Corning



**Celebrate your life and heritage by  
designating your documents and donations to  
the Historical Museum.**

1. **Project:** Organize your paperwork by having a plan in place when it comes to charitable giving, you can prevent your entitled tax benefits for helping others from falling by the wayside. Find out how you can easily set up a system and avoid common mistakes when it comes to documenting your contributions this year.
2. **Find out how 2011 Estate Tax Changes Affect You.** With the new year comes the return of the estate tax. Well into your retirement years, you may be wondering what this means for you. Find out how this major change will figure into your plans and what other updates are taking place this year.
3. **A Penny-Wise Way to Help!**  
Looking for creative ways to support your historical society during your retirement years? By naming us as the beneficiary of your retirement plan assets or insurance policies, you can provide the support you desire without giving up assets today! Check with your accountant and call us today!

**Donors to Nemaha County Historical Museum**

2003—17 Donors 2004—25 Donors 2005—17 Donors  
2006—148 Donors 2007—5 Donors 2008—56 Donors  
2009—73 Donors 2010—83 Donors

**105 Kansas Quilts 4 Kansas  
150th**

The Stauth Memorial Museum, Montezuma, KS has scheduled a quilt exhibit for **July 3, 2011 through August 14, 2011** as their part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Kansas Statehood. Their goal is to exhibit one quilt from each of the 105 Kansas counties.

A letter from the Stauth Memorial Museum requested a new or a old quilt that represents Nemaha County from the Nemaha County Historical Society. After reviewing the sixty-eight quilts in the museum's quilt collection, staff and volunteers chose to send the quilt made by 81 Nemaha County Businesses in 1975.

The Quilt of County Businesses is a nine block square quilt with a 2 inch border. NCHS sold 12 inch square blocks of white muslin with imprint of the business logo to be embroidered for \$20 to each of the 81 businesses in the county to raise money to help pay off the purchase of the Sheriff's Residence and Jail. The blocks were then sewed together and quilted. This Quilt made \$1620 for the museum and truly represents all of Nemaha County

**Museum Happenings**

**Marshall County Historical Society:** The Board of Directors of the Marshall County Historical, Marysville, toured the three buildings of the Historical Museum on the morning of Friday, March 25th. The group expressed amazement that every item in our museum has a barcode with name, accession number, photograph of item. After a brief tour of the Masonic Temple building, the group enjoyed lunch at Cornerstone Coffee Haus and a tour of the Pony Express Museum.

**Ft. Riley Expo:** Anita Heiman and Diane Rottinghaus assisted the Seneca Chamber of Commerce at the all day Ft. Riley Tourism Expo on April 2nd.

**Alumni:** A Planning Committee of the Seneca Public School Alumni group visited and researched the Museum's school room on April 2nd. The group are developing plans to expand the SPS exhibit on the first floor of Annex II. The SPS Alumni Group will meet at the Pony Express Museum on June 11, 2011.

**Main Street:** The Kansas State Main Street organizations held their quarterly meeting in Seneca on April 13-15th. The Museum was open for the Seneca Downtown Historical Tours from 4 to 7 p.m. each evening.

**Booking:** The Nemaha County Republican Women's club has booked the Museum for their Annual Luncheon Meeting on June 11th. The luncheon will be catered by the Miller's Daughter. After special speakers, the group plans to tour the three museum buildings.



contact Bill at 785-336-2101  
or email [bill@lauerfuneralhome.com](mailto:bill@lauerfuneralhome.com).

**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

113 North 6th Street  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS 66538

Museum Phone: 785-336-6366  
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DarlAnn Rial—Editor 785-294-1174  
E-Mail: [Albert.rial@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Albert.rial@sbcglobal.net)

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Nemaha County Historical Society

Due July 1, 2011 Received: \_\_\_\_\_

**2011-2012 Registration Form**

Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 66538

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Historical Society membership (H) \$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (Life) \$200.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership \$20.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution-Memorial or Recognition of _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising Donation _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund _____	

Number of Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.*



# PIONEER PRESS

August, September, October 2011

Volume 29, Issue 1



The Tractor Cruise Bonenefit was held on June 18, 2011 to fund the exhibit which will honor the Service and Sacrifice of our Nemaha County warriors by preserving their military uniforms and collections.

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SPONSORS:**

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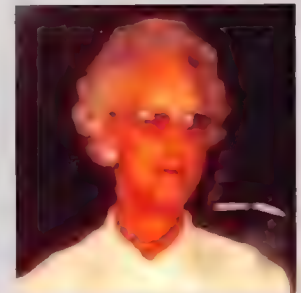
AHRS Construction

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Seneca County Television

## **Memorials Received**



**Christine Burger  
Childers  
1900 -1998**



**Elmer R. Koelzer  
1934-2011**



**James E. Sheik  
1919-2011**

## Museum Happenings

**Pauly Jail Cells:** In May, Jerry and Jan Kneifel from the Platte County Historical Society visited the museum and took pictures of the Pauly Jail Cells. Jerry took photos of the our 1879 cells so that the historical society can create the missing parts of their gifted 1877 Pauly cells.

**150th Quilt Show:** Nemaha County Historical Society has a quilt in the the Stauth Memorial Museum, Montezuma, KS from July 3, 2011 through August 14, 2011 as their part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Kansas Statehood. Stauth County Museum's goal has been to exhibit one quilt from each of the 105 Kansas counties.

**Pepperbox School Revisited;** Barbara Ketterman Pendleton, Shawnee Mission, KS, recently brought her mother and father, Cora and Romney Ketterman, to tour the museum and the World War I artifacts. Romney Ketterman taught at the Pepperbox school in 1949.

### New Volunteers

Four volunteers, Sally Lauer, Katy Holthaus, Edith Deters, and Sharon Steinlage, have answered the call from the Nemaha County Historical Society for "Greeters". As the inventory of the Masonic Temple progresses, visitors to the museum need to be greeted and toured through the Sheriff's Residence and Jail. The greeters welcome guests and assist with typing as well as document filing in the museum office.

### WW II Veterans Reception

Leonard Krogman, Don Winkler, Melvin Bergman and Ed Holthaus, four veterans of World War II, met on Saturday, July 2nd at the Nemaha County Historical Museum to share their experiences and answer questions at a community reception. Board member Harry Stewart filmed the presentation to preserve war experiences on tape. Board member Clara Reinecke was committee chair for the event. The video of the reception is currently showing on Seneca Community Television (Channel 2). Another reception is scheduled for Veterans Day which will include Korean Veterans.

### 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Sandra Reddish, Museum Technician at the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Museum at Ft. Riley was the special speaker at the 2011 Annual Meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Sandra has agreed to be the NCHS Humanities Consultant for Military Artifact Preservation program. She received her M.A. in Public History from Wichita State University. Sandra is also a PHD student at Kansas State University. She reviewed the stated intentions, helped research possible theme and project development and necessary steps needed to cultivate humanities philosophical approaches to the project outline.

## Board of Directors

Anita Heiman, President  
Richard Schmitz, Vice President  
DarlAnn Rial, Secretary-Treasurer  
Harry Stewart, Maintenance  
Eugene Visser, Sales  
Joyce Olberding, Memorials  
Frances Davis, Bancroft  
Clara Reinecke, Publicity  
Leanne Jones, Director  
Dean Rial, Financial  
Alma Ackerman, Membership  
Raymond Thieme, Director  
Staff  
Diane Rottinghaus, Director  
Mary Steinlage, Librarian  
Dorothy Pearl Murphy, Research  
Lillian Engelken, Curator

### 2011-12 Schedule:

August 9, 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting  
September 16-17, 2011: Hwy. 36 Garage Sale  
October 1, 2011 2nd Annual Heritage Days Golf Classic  
October 2, 2011 Thirty-third Heritage Days Event  
November 8, 2011 Quarterly Board Meeting  
February 14, 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting  
May 15, 2012 Quarterly Board Meeting  
June 12, 2012 Annual Dinner Meeting/Directors Election  
June 16, 2012 Third Annual Tractor Cruise Fundraiser  
July 10, 2012 Reorganization Meeting



## District 42 Harrison Township Research

Thank you very much for the 1877 Atlas of Nemaha County. There were a few names that I could not make out, but I found the location of farms owned by Joseph Dennis, Cyrus Snodgrass, James Church, William W. Worley and his son, Miles Ambrose. The Atlas also identifies land given to the UP Central Branch Railroad when it was constructed in 1867. Early settlers preferred preemption claims for public lands rather than purchase from the UPBRR because the railroad required payment up front.

Enclose a map of Dist. #42 showing the homes of the first settlers of 1865-70, and hope to expand this list through further research. If your files contain enrollment records, names and terms of teachers, or other data pertaining to District 42, I would like to obtain copies. I understand that enrollment exceeded 36 students at the turn of the century, requiring construction of a new building in 1910. I attended District 42 in 1925-33 and lived on the land occupied by the schoolhouse; my father was on the school board. This farm had six owners in the seven decades between 1870 and 1940, when the district was disbanded.

Morris Werner  
50 E. Webster Apt. 816  
Madison, TN 37115

## Kansas Historical Society Seeking Survey Assistance

As part of the agency's efforts to commemorate the state sesquicentennial, the Kansas State Historical Society plans to conduct a historic preservation survey and prepare a National Registry historic context state for "Kansas Vernacular Architecture 1820-1900". The primary goal of the survey is to document all extant buildings constructed through 1861, the year of Kansas' statehood. KSHS has contracted with preservation consultants Dale Nimz and Susan Jezak Ford to carry out this important survey. Since the project is to be completed by September 15, 2011, we need your help to identify the earliest historic buildings in your community. If you know of any surviving buildings constructed through 1861 in your area, please contact Amanda Loughlin, Survey Coordinator, Kansas State Historical Society, at 785-272-8681 x 257 or send a message to [survey@kshs.org](mailto:survey@kshs.org).

Topeka (see <http://www.kshs.org/pl/annualreservation-conference/16649>).

## Genealogical Trip

The Wichita Genealogical Society is sponsoring a research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City from September 3 to 11, 2011. For more information about the trip, visit the WGS web site at

[www.wichitagensoc.org](http://www.wichitagensoc.org).

## Bern Historical Documents

John & Sharon Yaussi, Wichita, KS visited the museum recently and donated photographs, documents, books and clothing from 1890's belonging to the Messerle & Moser families of Bern, Kansas.

## SENECA NAME ORIGIN

Hi there

I was very interested in the Seneca Name Origin?? I had never seen this connection before! My father was from Seneca, Kansas and my mother from Seneca County, Ohio!! My dad came to Ohio from Seneca in 1937. He met my mother and lived in Ohio until his death. My grandparents lived in Seneca until they died. Harry Ellsworth and Alice Hailey Culler were their names. No roots in Seneca County, Ohio before the families went to Kansas. The Culler family had been in Noble County, Ohio but not in Seneca County.

Sandy Konzan, Marblehead OH 43440  
[SKONZEN@roadrunner.com](mailto:SKONZEN@roadrunner.com)

## Centralia Alumni Reunion:

Red Kelley's daughter, Jean Laughlin of Atwater, CA visited the museum over Memorial Day and viewed the Centralia focused exhibits.

## Goff Alumni Reunion:

Elaine Talarski of San Antonio, Texas attended the Goff Alumni Reunion over the Memorial Weekend. She requested a copy of the *Descendants of Augustus Jacob Wolfley* booklet.

## Benshoff Family Research

Brandon Keith brought his grandmother, Anna Bell Keith to Nemaha County on Memorial Day. They visited the cemeteries and the museum as they researched the Benshoff family. The museum had a 1913 photograph of Roy Benshoff with the Methodist Sunday School class in the potato patch donated by Velven York.

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# PIONEER PRESS

Volume 30, Issue 2

November-December 2011; January 2012

150

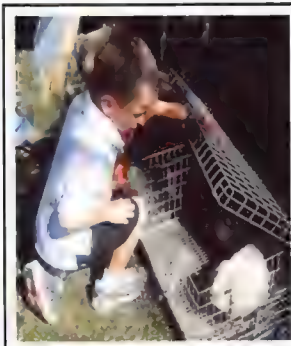
1861 KANSAS 2011

## Heritage Days Festival 2011



The American Legion Riders and members of Boy Scout Troop #71 lead the flag ceremony at the Heritage Days Festival 2011. Kelsey Bradley sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and Matt Carter demonstrated and entertained with military bugle calls. Buggy rides, a petting zoo, vendors, and tours of three museums were available. Cornerstone Coffee Haus catered the meal and the Boy Scout Troop prepared cobbler for over 200 people.

Proposed plans for the museum exhibits in the Masonic Temple were the focus of the special speakers during the Heritage Days Festival 2011. Sandra Reddish, Ft. Riley and Dr. Jay Price, Public History Director at Wichita State spoke of the need for community involvement and support. Ms. Reddish is serving as the museum's Humanities consultant for the inter-



pretive museum exhibition that tells the story of Freemasonry and Military activity in Nemaha County and Kansas over the last 150 years. This project will display military and masonry artifacts in displays highlighted with videos of Masons and veteran interviews. Historical Re-enactor Bill Nicks entertained as Dr. Naismith, inventor of basketball, prior to the drawing for prizes and closing ceremonies.

*Memorial Received  
In Memory of  
J.C. Newlin  
By Greg Newlin*

*NCHS Board  
Welcomes Two New  
Members*

*The Nemaha County Historical Society welcomes two new board members for the 2011—2012 year.*

*Raymond Thieme of Sabetha was elected to Position 5 to fill an un-expired term left by Byran Lear who moved out of state. A veteran of the Korean War, Mr. Thieme has been an active participant of the board.*

*Freda Dobbins of Goff was appointed to Position 9 on the NCHS by the Bancroft Preservation Association as representative of the Bancroft Depot Museum, an affiliate of the NCHS.*

*Trudie Barnes, Sabetha, won the Heritage Days Festival drawing for a hand made quilt.*

## New To The Museum

### Pending Board Approval

Helen Lierz	Hummel Collection; 25 Commemorative Plates; 1971-1995
Greg Newlin	"Abe Lincoln to Kansas Research & Sabetha History book
Marcena Stallbaumer	Three vintage school books
Melvin Harold	WW II Infantry Military Uniform
Mary Steinlage	Pictures and military uniforms of three brothers
Linda Griffiths, Topeka	Cookbook
Sandra Vaught, Topeka	Seneca High School notebook
Wilma Jones	Congregational Church archives
Richard Godbout	WW II Banners
Museum of KS National Guard	Two Marine and Two Naval Uniforms
Alma & Bob Ackerman Janet Ackerman Hicks	IOOF costumes and hats; mannequins; Freemasonry historical documents
Jeanette & Greg Heiman	Old Washing Machine (wood)
Lois Bindel	Leo Jurgensmeier's WW II military uniform, archives
Nancy Gafford	STEP annual reports and archives from Dr. Gilbert estate
Ellen Westerhaus	Crib, trunk, book, school and family pictures
John Yaussi, Wichita	Messerle family photos and archives
Mary Jane Fleming	Vintage Jacket and three photo books, postcards
Melvin Bergman	WW II Navy Uniform, ribbons and insignia; certificates and documents
Ray & Marlene Hightower Manhattan	Book: Tragedy on the District #100 School Ground", July 21, 1910; A synopsis of the Tragic Murder of William F. Bliesner and Associated Events that Followed. Researched, published and donated by Ray and Marlene Hightower.
Velven York	Jennie Harsh's IOOF 25 year pin (1877), Jermaine Masonic Bible; Oneida cookbook; SHS Tiger newsletter (1948); SHS toy tiger for alumni exhibit
Ambrose Schmitz	One-horse, wooden beam, breaking plow
Anita Heiman	Carvings, sailor hats; spinning wheel,
Ken Crevier	Wooden wash stand, mop bucket, mole trap, buggy wrench, reins holder
Gerald Swart, Goff	Scanned & returned copies of Melvin Swart's military photos, certificate & USS Storm King photos.
Robert Bair	Military Collection of 66 photos (1960-1971) Air Force Recon Photography; 48 star flag, banner, uniform and hat. Lowry Air Force Base, CO; Forbes Air Force Base
Ellmer Holthaus, Centralia	Scanned & returned copies of Elmer Holthaus's Vietnam Photographs (1969); documents, images from "Bite & Strike" by Bill Wolf.
Cy Roiggenkamp	1850s bathtub

### MUSCLES For FUNDS

*Thanks to high scholars Storey Feldkamp, David and Nick Holthaus for loading three old iron stoves from the Masonic Temple basement and Annex II into Bob Ackerman's pickup for a trip to the ironman. The load of iron brought \$88.50 to the treasury of the Historical Society.*

*Thanks to the Nemaha Valley High School Football Team for providing muscles for Heritage Days Festival activities. They set up tables, chairs, canopies and petting zoo racks.*

## SKF Sealing Solutions

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Nemaha County History

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Seneca, KS 66538

[sutherbuilding@yahoo.com](mailto:sutherbuilding@yahoo.com)

785-336-2255

### Historical Society Membership

Annual Membership Fee: \$10

Business Membership: \$20

Lifetime Membership: \$200

Annual Fees Due July 1st

501C3 non-profit organization.



## Golf Classic Sponsors

Thanks to the following sponsors & supporters of the Second Annual Heritage Days Golf Classic fundraising event and the 35<sup>th</sup> Heritage Days Festival:

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 Seneca Ready Mix  
 Seneca Sanitation  
 Seneca Thriftway  
 Seneca Wholesale  
 Settle Inn  
 Skeeze Farm Toy Museum  
 Suther Building Supplies  
 United Bank & Trust  
 Vi & Keith Megill

## MUSEUM BOOKING

The Nemaha County Republican Women's club has booked the Museum for their Annual Membership Meeting on March 10, 2012. The luncheon will be catered by the Miller's Daughter.

## MAIN STREET DISPLAY 1901-1905

Not every ounce of energy is going into fundraising by members of the Nemaha County Society. Volunteers have continued to inventory all the items in the recently gifted Masonic Temple. Over fifty invoices from early Nemaha County businesses were found in pristine condition. These were accessioned and preserved in the archives cabinet. Twenty-six of the invoices, dated 1901 to 1905, were copied and affixed with photographs of some of the businesses to a copy of the Sanford Insurance Seneca Main Street map for exhibit at the Heritage Days.

## Photos From Negatives

Currently Nemaha County Historical Society has been using a flatbed scanner and a small light source to scan negatives and turn them into actual photos for sale.

The Strathman Collection of black and white negatives and glass plate negatives cover the years of 1920—1945 and are being inventoried and cataloged in part by a Kansas Museum Association Grant.

## HIGHWAY 36 TREASURE HUNT

Thanks to the community, visitors and board members for donated garage sale items that sold at the museum during the Hwy. 36 Treasure Hunt fundraiser in September.

Sales brought a total of \$631 for two days. An Early Bird sale was held the night before the big event and was open to supporters who brought bakery goods to be sold at the Hwy. 36 Treasure Hunt.

Excess Masonic items and some garage sale items were sold on E-Bay which resulted in an additional \$823.50 to support the museum. The items were mailed to places such as Canada, Spain and France.



Doug & Sharon Ackerman

Locksmith Services

1110 Center Street, Marysville

785-562-3494 - ASSA

**Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.**

113 North 6th Street  
PO Box 41  
Seneca, KS 66538

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DarlAnn Rial—Editor 785-294-1174  
E-Mail: [Albert.rial@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Albert.rial@sbcglobal.net)

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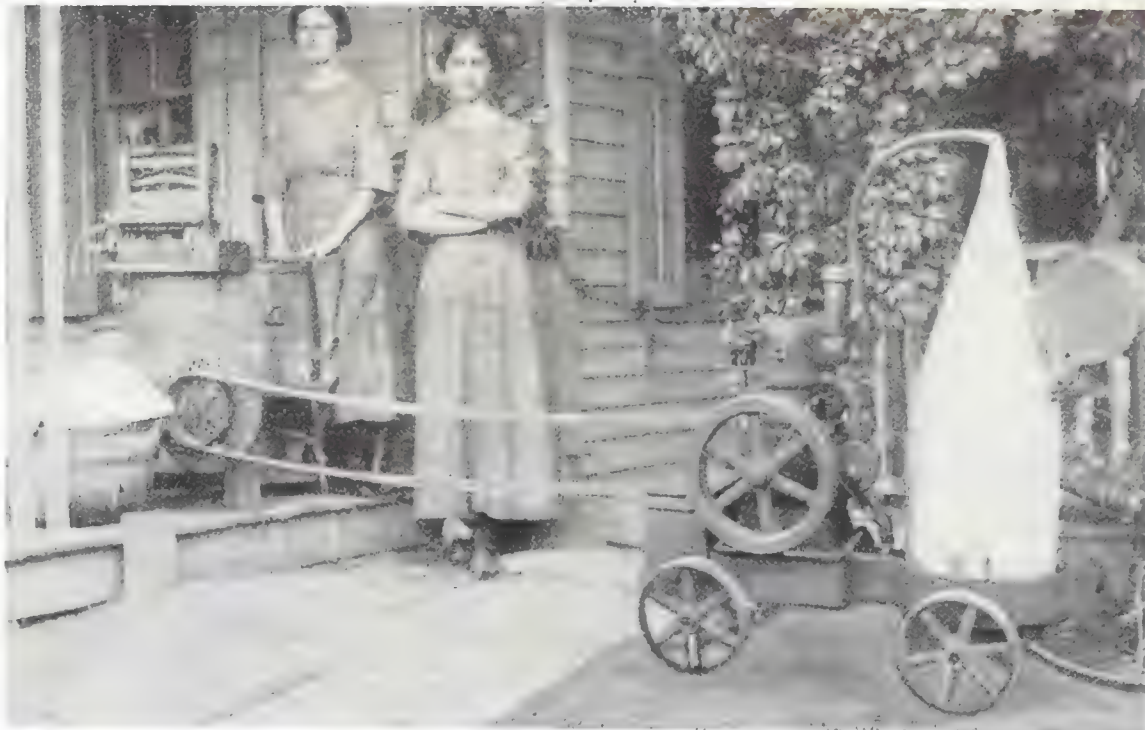
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66538-2663 R003



The Cushman gas engine was often used to power the washing machines over one hundred years ago. One such restored engine was demonstrated by Doug Ackerman at the Heritage Days Festival. A wooden washing machine as one shown above was recently donated to the Nemaha County Historical Museum by Jeanette & Greg Heiman.



# PIONEER PRESS

Volume 30, Issue 3

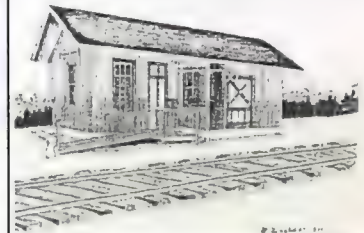
February—March—April, 2012

## Museum's Future in Question



A lack of financial support threatens the future of the Nemaha County Historical Museum. Recognizing that the past five-year inventory and preservation of artifacts in the Nemaha County Historical Museum will secure much of Nemaha County History for future generations, the board of trustees have hopes two fundraising activities during the coming year will keep the museum open.

The Third Annual Golf Classic has been set for Sunday, June 3, 2012 and the Third Annual Tractor Cruise in August of 2012. Hope lingers that the fundraisers will draw community support to fund the planned Masonic-Military Exhibit in the recently gifted Masonic Temple, pay museum utilities, and fund the independent director's contract for one day a week. Failure to receive state grant funding plus the decision by the City of Seneca to end their utility exemption to the Nemaha County Historical Society within a year stresses the future of the museum. Membership dues and private contributions help, but are limited. Interest from the Burger Trust is minimal under the current economic climate and further closes the door for any steady financial support.



## History of the Bancroft Museum

Affiliated with the Nemaha County Historical Society, the Depot Museum is one of the two surviving depots that served the KCWNW Railroad from 1887 through 1919. In 1993 a group of interested present and former Bancroft residents began forming the Bancroft Preservation Association to develop a plan for saving and exhibiting materials related to the Bancroft community. The donation of the Depot and the land by interested local residents provided the Bancroft Preservation Association (BPA) with the resources needed for the housing of Bancroft's history. In November, 1994, the Depot was moved to its present location from a farm one-half-mile east of the small community and work began on restoration.

Since the opening in 1995, the Bancroft Preservation Association annually sponsors two events during May through October: "Music at the Museum" evening on the 3rd Saturday of July and a picnic the last Sunday in August. Christmas lights are added to the Museum to be enjoyed from Thanksgiving through New Years Day.

**Read More @ Bancroft:**  
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/museums>



## Letters To The Museum

### Correspondence

From Morris Werner,  
200 E. Webster, Apt. 816  
Madison, TN 37115

I enclose a list of Slave Related Families of Nemaha County compiled from the 1870 U.S. Census and from information obtained in response to my inquiry in your recent Newsletter. I am indebted to Arthur Scoby of Sabetha for information on William Yaunt, and for copies of the 1865 Kansas Census which identify Charles, son of Rachel Holden ex-slave as distinct from Charles, son of Joseph and Mary Baker Holden. Rachel and her children probably had been the property of a family named Holden, but no known relationship exists between Rachel and the families of Joseph and Mary Baker Holden or Elijah & Mary Reese Holden from Cherokee County GA who settled in Nemaha County at the end of the Civil War.

Ralph Tennial in his 1916 History of Nemaha County mistakenly identifies Cora Holden as the wife of John Masterson. Masterson & Roundtree families are believed to have been resettled in Nemaha County by the Freedman's Bureau of the Federal Government. This has not been confirmed. Jane Scott b AR 1833 was perhaps the sister of Daniel Scott b AR 1844. She was not the daughter of Rachel Holden, b MD 1827 as stated by Ralph Tennial.

John Carter and Catherine Wright were landowners in 1870, John Alexander, John Archer and Kate Berry were teenagers living as domestic servants or farm laborers in 1870.

Sincerely,

Morris Werner

Attached: Two pages entitled "Slave Related Families of Nemaha County 1870" by Morris Werner.

#### Email from Baxter B. Fite III

I am trying to learn a little more about two Civil War Veterans who are buried in Nemaha County. They are John H. McVay, who died on June 15, 1905 and who is buried in the Sheridan Cemetery in Auburn, Nebraska, and John B. Lewis, who is buried in the Walnut Grove Cemetery in Nemaha County. John H. McVay is listed in one source as having been a member of Co. D of the 24th Iowa, but, I believe he was actually born in Ohio, came to Illinois with his parents about 1840, served in Co. F of the 86th Illinois, married Sarah Evelyn Mowery in Knox County, Illinois in November of 1865, remained in Illinois into the 1870's before moving to Iowa and then Nebraska. I believe that John B. Lewis was a member of Co. A of the 86th. Is there anyone with your society who would be interested in researching these two Civil War veterans and in turn help me learn more about them as well? Thanks for any help.

Sincerely, Baxter

#### Email from Ellen Powell:

Hello

I've been cleaning out some of my great grandfather's photos and have a few historical photos of Oneida, Kansas including the band and the fire department, dated 1885. Am wondering whether you or another historical society in the area would like to have them-if so, let me know your mailing address and once I have them all together I'd be happy to send them for your collection.

Thanks,

Ellen

Response: NCHS volunteers love historical photos, especially of early Nemaha County communities and activities. Our mailing address is PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas, 66538

Doug & Sharon Ackerman  
Locksmith Services  
1110 Center Street, Marysville  
785-562-3494 - ASSA



## SKF Sealing Solutions

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## Suther Building Supply

105 North 1<sup>st</sup>

Seneca, KS 66538

[sutherbuilding@yahoo.com](mailto:sutherbuilding@yahoo.com)

785-336-2255

### Historical Society Membership

Annual Membership Fee: \$10

Business Membership: \$20

Lifetime Membership: \$200

Annual Fees Due July 1st

501C3 non-profit organization.



## *Kansas and Her Pioneer* by Tom McFarland 1870-74 Part One

*This story in the archives of the NCHS was made available in 1979 through the cooperation of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Armstrong, Havensville, Kansas.*

On the 26th day of March 1870, myself and two other young men got off the Central Branch passenger train at the Corning Station, one mile west of the present town of Corning. There was no house in sight, and as neither of us had ever seen a prairie, it never entered our minds that the high hill surrounded by ravines on all sides could be a prairie. The station at that time was an old shed roof addition taken from some house and set up along side of the track and had no floor. As the train pulled out and left us we felt very desolate and were at a loss to know what to do. Our destination was America City, at that time the hub of civilization. Much to our gratification a boy on a pony came up to the old shack to get the mail sack which had been cast off. We were not slow to make inquiry for our personal welfare. The boy told us that America City was seven miles south and just follow him and keep to the trail we could soon make it. He then spurred his pony and went off on a run. The boy was Frank McKay, now a prominent citizen of Phillips County and a son of our friend, Dr. N. B. McKay.

It was sunset when we lit out after him as fast as our legs would carry us. But we soon tired of the run and settled down to a walk. Darkness came on and we heard strange noises in the grass which seemed to be alive with varmints.

We did but little talking, but like the Scotchman's owl, we did a lot of thinking for off in the southwest was a prairie fire divided into two parts and had a strong resemblance to a battle going on. We were unanimous in the belief that white men were playing the civilization act on the Indians. In time we discovered a small house near the trail which appeared to be unoccupied. After a low conference we approached and hammered on the door. You may judge our consternation when suddenly the whole interior went into an uproar with threats to riddle us with bullets, and the way we took to our heels would have been laughable had our position been less serious.

We learned later that our wouldn't be host was John Reed, on a visit to his mother and brothers east of American City, had taken refuge here and was as badly frightened as we were. This small school house was near the present Greenwood school. We were not long in going the rest of the way and soon found ourselves close up to another larger school house. All school houses and no one to attend, as one of the boys put it. We saw a light not far off and soon had the pleasure of knowing that we were at American City. Several young men were in the one store of the place and as we were hungry and tired we felt as though our trials were over for the night but there was nothing to eat and nowhere to sleep about the city and our blues came on anew. We were informed that Uncle Jim Armstrong lived about one mile south and as that was the man we were looking for, we were made glad when one of the young men, Bent Channel, offered to conduct us to the direct route. We found the place after a few minutes walk and received a welcome that did our souls good. We stayed one

week with this esteemable family and became acquainted with a few of the settlers.

We went to church and heard A. B. Channell preach. Dr. N. B. McKay was postmaster and Jim Brownlee was store keeper. I also met Ed Kepler, Harvey Armstrong, John Nuzman and Frank Cochran. About the 4th of April we learned that there was work to be found south of Topeka, where the Santa Fe railroad was being built, and resolved on going there. We left our luggage with Sam Simmermon to bring to us as he expected to drive down the next week.

As we had to walk to St. Mary's Mission, Mr. Armstrong went out on the hill west of the house and pointed out the direction for us to go, the most important thing was to keep due south. We started off in good spirits but was off the trail before we went a mile. Instead of going south we got turned to the east in the timber and went southeast. We could look back and see Mr. Armstrong, trying to set us right but we waved our hats and kept on. When we reached the divide we found a man who lived in a dugout, Sam Grimshaw, who pointed out a few trees, called them Beach's Grove, and told us to go to the Grove, and keep some object in view all the way that lay in our path.

After we had gone a mile or so farther on we could look back and see three or four houses. I learned later that this was Buckey's Ridge, and the residences belonged to Fin Smith, Milt Sutton, Elijah Collins and Mrs. Proctor.

.....To be continued

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This horse is thought to be an imported Percheron stallion by the name of Mont Gandy. Old timers who may know the stallion Mont Gandy may be able to identify the man with horse in the picture.



**NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,**

# **PIONEER PRESS**

Volume 29, Issue 4

May, June, July, 2012

## **Historical Society Receives Donations**



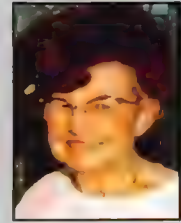
Donations of showcases and shadowboxes from the Kansas National Guard Museum at Forbes Field in Topeka to the Nemaha County Historical Military exhibit ignited a flurry of activity this Spring. These showcases are on permanent loan and must be returned if no longer used for museum purposes. Funded in part by a S.T.E.P. Community Foundation grant, these showcases along with additional glass and wood fixtures purchased at Macy's close-out sale, were transported and lifted into the recently gifted Masonic Temple. After the showcases are reassembled, the exhibition will tell the story of military activity and its influence on Nemaha County citizens.

### Appreciation

The Nemaha County Historical Society expresses appreciation to Col. Jacobs at Forbes Field for museum fixtures; the Pawnee City Historical Society for a March dinner, tour and discussion of museum organization and marketing; and to the Seneca Public School Alumni group who began construction of a temperature controlled display in Annex II on April 7th.

**Annual Dinner Meeting/Directors Election: June 12, 2012; 6:30 p.m.**

### **Memorials Received**



**Hazel A. Hoffman**

**1916-2011**



**Regina C. "Jean" Niehues**

**1923-2011**



**Lila Mary  
(Brogher) Newlin**

**1913-2011**



**Richard A Massieon**

**1946-2012**

# Letters To The Museum

## Correspondence

### From Hastings, Nebraska:

In reference to the photograph of the imported Percheron stallion Mont Gandy and owner, my grandfather Bernard Bergmann, I'll quote some of my memories and some things I think will be interesting to some folks.

Grandpa Bergmann retired from the farm in 1906., moving to St. Benedict with his four children which he raised himself since his wife passed away very young. He built a fine, two story house there and lived there until the children were raised (15 years). Then he moved into Seneca. At age eleven, I remember him well. He was a kind and gentle man. We listened to many stories about his horses. One story of interest was about being a sponsor for German boys who came to America. The rule then was to live with a sponsor until he found them a job and they were able to support themselves. The boys helped him with the horses and cattle operations. When he was 81, he moved in with his daughter and husband, Lena and Frank Melcher (my parents). My biggest memory of him was that he always cut my hair. My mother would give us a lecture before he came to sit still especially when he used the hand clippers which pinched. He lived to be 82 and was buried in St. Benedict Cemetery beside his wife. Hope you find this interesting. Thank you for this opportunity to share. We miss all of you, but enjoy being near Sue and family.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Waters, 931 East F Street  
The Villa, Apt 807  
Hastings, NE 68901-3240

**Editor's Note:** Bernard Bergmann is subject of review in Ralph Tennal's History of Nemaha County, page 487-488.

### Mont Gandy

NCHS had several inquiries about the Mont Gandy photo in the February newsletter. Frances Schraad of Seneca brought his framed picture of the imported Percheon stallion into the museum. His records indicate that Mont Gandy was born in France in 1902, imported by a Nebraska man in 1904, purchased by Bergmann in 1912. Mont Gandy died in 1914 when he foundered on Timothy hay.

### From Madison, Tennessee

I enclose four documents which I have researched relating to the history of Nemaha County:

1. Settlers & Settlements of Nemaha County
2. Log of George Dufield's 1866 Cattle Drive, Texas to Iowa.
3. Slave Related Families of Nemaha County 1870
4. First Families of Harris School District #42

The 1870 Census lists Laura Gossick, schoolteacher, b Wisconsin, age 19 living in the household of Benjamin Harris. Could someone check and see if she was the first teacher at Harris School? Also, would like to know the names of the first students in 1871.

The 1877 Atlas of Nemaha County shows L.B. Murphy as owner of the quarter section containing Murphy Lake. He is not listed in the 1870 Census. Perhaps he is in the 1880 or 1890 Census. I'd like to know his full name, name of his spouse and children.

Yours truly,

Morris Werner  
200 E. Webster Apt. 816  
Madison, TN 37115



### Correction:

### Bancroft Museum

### Opens on Memorial Day

**Annual Picnic: Sunday, June 24,  
2012 starting at 5 p.m.**

From Lawrence:

I am in the process of identifying 19th century grist/flouring mills in Kansas. I have identified the following mills in Nemaha county: The Seneca Mills at Seneca, The Sabetha Flouring Mills at Sabetha., The Wetmore Mills at Wetmore, The Ingram Mill at Centralia, The Challis Mill at Woodlawn, and a "Steam & Water Flour Mill at Neuchatel. Need information!

Doug & Sharon Ackerman

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Lifetime Membership: \$200

More Information: 785-336-6366

Annual Fees Due July 1st

501C3 non-profit organization.





## Registration:

[www.nemahacountyhistorical.com](http://www.nemahacountyhistorical.com)

# 2012 NEMAHA TRACTOR CRUISE FEATURED TRACTORS IHC & CASE IH



The Third Annual Nemaha County Historical Society's Tractor Cruise and Tractor Display will be held on Saturday, July 28, 2012 as a part of the Nemaha County Fair Week starting at 11:30 a.m. from the Seneca City Park, Seneca, Kansas. Cruise night and car & tractor show are also on this weekend. Tractors of all ages are welcome. Must be able to go 12 miles per hour. A BBQ Meal will be served after the thirty mile cruise to Bern, St. Benedict & back to Seneca.

*Don't want to drive, but want to show tractor overnight? Pay \$40, bring tractor and receive tee shirt and BBQ.*

**Contact Richard Schmitz:**

**785-336-6596**

Nemaha County Historical  
Society, Inc.

PO Box 41

Seneca, KS 66538



## July 28, 2012

**Benefit Military Exhibition  
of Military Artifacts**



## *Kansas and Her Pioneers* by Tom McFarland 1870-74 Part Two

*This story in the archives of the NCHS was made available in 1979 through the cooperation of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Armstrong, Havensville, Kansas.*

Our further journey to Topeka where the Santa Fe railroad was being built, passed without incident until we were within five miles of St. Mary's. We had tramped all day and had not seen a person, but now we see more than a hundred coming over the hill about a mile in our advance, and riding toward us at a furious pace. We knew at once they were Indians. One of our number, John Callon was stocky built, and he could never keep up but now he came into line in a hurry. As the Indians drew near we huddled together like sheep but kept on the trail. The Indians saw that we were strangers and obligingly turned off the trail about a hundred yards as they rode past. Each gave us a salute of "How" and as they rode single file it took sometime for them to pass. You bet we were not slow the rest of the way, with Callan in the lead.

We spent the night in St. Mary's and then took the cars to Topeka. Here we laid over one day and night and took in the sights. The census enumerator took our names and added them to the city population. The city at the time, I was told, contained near four thousand of population. The town was located about 80 rods south of the river, the Shawnee mills being the nearest building to the river. Just across the street was a sign nailed to a tree that told us if you want to get a cake like Mama used to bake, file right, march; and after following the path a few rods, we found the place, and enjoyed a good meal and a night's rest.

North Topeka at that time was called Eugene. There were several dwelling houses and a grocery store near the bridge. About 10 o'clock a.m. we got transportation to Carbondale, south of Topeka. We walked from Carbondale to a grading camp fourteen miles north of Emporia and found work with Contractors Armil and Elish. While there I became acquainted with Henry Hamar and Elsbury Eytchison of Pottawatomie County. Nothing of interest to the reader transpired while we were here, except in one instance. One Friday evening we three walked up on the divide south of the camp and was surprised to see a good sized town which appeared to be only a short distance away. And we determined to ask for a lay-off to go to town. Armil cheerfully granted us permission but advised us to take one of his mule teams since the distance to Emporia was fourteen miles. This part of it we didn't believe, and started off on the walk. Where we had been before coming to Kansas there was hills and timber, and our vision was confined to a small circumference. So we make up our minds that Emporia was about three or four miles off, but after we had walked most of the afternoon and the town seemed no nearer than when we started, our nerve began to fail. We scared up a jack rabbit and ran ourselves half to death trying to catch it, as we thought it was a young deer, crippled, but he was too active for us. It was sundown when our road led into some timber and here was a man just hitching up to go to town. He took us in and we rode the rest of the way. We did not pass a house or see one in our half day walk until we got to this timber. It was near dark when we reached town, tired and hungry. I was up and about early Sunday morning and noticed a large brick building in course of construction in the north-east part of the town and while around it saw Emporia Normal School engraved on a large stone

lying on the ground. I wondered where their source of revenue was located as there was very few cultivated farms in sight. I learned later that the first settlers built in close to the timber and their farms were in the lowlands and could be overlooked from high places. All three of us attended the M.E. Sunday School in their little stone church. The superintendent was about my age and six feet tall. He told me that he came west after being discharged from the Union army and formed a law partnership with an ex-confederate. One of our boys, Ed Galbreath, left us here and went south. He wrote me afterwards that he bought a quarter section of land between Chelsea and Eldorado in Butler County. Callon and I hoofed it back to camp much wiser by our adventure.

It might be interesting to speak about rattlesnakes. They were everywhere. They drove Callon and I out of our dugout and we had to sleep in an old prairie schooner, under the road scrapers. In the morning, there was sure to be a rattler or two. They can't stand cold, and our April nights would cause them to become stiff as if frozen. We would take a wisp of grass, set it on fire and drop it on the snakes and it would cook them.

The Santé Fe suspended work for an indefinite time during the month of May so we engaged with Sam Simmerman to bring us back to America City. We had some fun on the road. One evening we discovered a small haystack. Callon and I told Sam to stop his team and we would get some hay for his horses. He warned us to look out as some person might see us.

.....to be continued



**Nemaha County Historical  
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**Annual Fundraisers**

**3rd Annual Golf Classic:**

**June 3, 2012**

**3rd Annual Tractor Cruise:**

**July 28, 2012**

**Steinlage, Mary**  
**7148 Settle St.**  
**Kelly, KS 66538-2663**

2011



**Nemaha County Historical Society  
2012-2013 Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Individual-Historical Society membership (H) \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (Life) \$200.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Contribution-Memorial or Recognition of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Jail Window s Fund: Costs up to \$1,000 per window; amount given - \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Military Exhibition Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Utilities Fund: Costs up to \$250 per month; amount given - \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.*

**Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 66538**

## NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,



# Pioneer Press

Volume 30, Issue 1

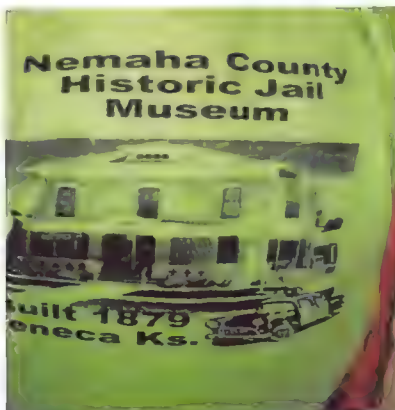
August, September, October 2012

### Historical Society Board Reorganizes

At their July reorganizational meeting, the Nemaha County Historical Society board set the following priorities for the 2012-13 fiscal year:

1. Prepare the Masonic Temple for tours by Heritage Days in October 2012. The board agreed to move ahead with installation of a new 200 amp 40 circuit panel and install outlets in the main hall and in the basement area. The board also discussed a long range renovation plan that would establish structural needs and priorities, bidding specifications and estimated costs. This plan would help establish specific donor funds. The board approved seeking estimates for such a renovation plan from an architect, engineer or management company.

2. Set a redevelopment plan. The board also discussed a redevelopment plan that would seek to honor Nemaha County's history, preserve historic sites, and provide space for expanded exhibits and events through a satellite museum program. This project will benefit the entire community as well as this and other museums in Nemaha County. The board also agreed to set aside funds for property taxes until the military exhibit is open to the public on October 7th at which time the organization can re-file for exemption from property taxes.



The board recently approved "Jail" tee shirts that can be purchased for \$15. The cost of the shirts has been funded in part by a City of Seneca Travel and Tourism Council grant.

3. Continue the fundraising events and explore availability of grants for restoration of Temple, preservation of the Jail and purchase of exhibition and preservation supplies.

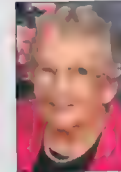
4. Develop energy saving methods to save on utilities while recruiting more volunteers to help keep museum open and lawns mowed.

After the current officers agreed to serve one more year, President Anita Heiman appointed a nominations committee to recruit new organizational officers for the 2013-14 term.

### Funds Received



In Memory Of  
Lt. Col. Veronica J. Hutfles  
1974 - 2012



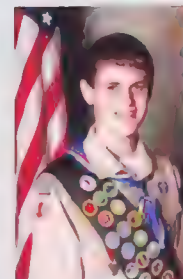
In Memory of  
Dorothy H. Wempe  
1914 - 2012



In Memory of  
Ambrose Schmitz  
1928 - 2012



In Memory of  
Sharon Schmitz  
1954 - 2012



In Honor of  
Eagle Scout  
Luke Michael Runnebaum



## Annual Meeting

Retired Lt. Col. Doug Jacobs, a public affairs officer and currently the civilian command historian with Joint Forces Headquarters in Topeka treated members of the Nemaha County Historical Society with his historical review of Seneca's military monuments at their annual meeting in June. He identified the "tank in the park" as a 105 mm Howitzer Motor Carriage M7 produced during World War II, and given the unofficial service name "Priest" by the British Army, due to the pulpit-like machine gun ring.

Col. Jacobs noted a twin to Seneca's Howitzer was relocated from Troy to the Kansas National Guard Museum in Topeka. He called the Priest "a true Kansas military artifact". He highlighted the "rarity" of the Civil War canon in front of the American Legion building and the "appropriate" military memorial wall at Hwy 36/63 and praised the VFW/City for this accomplishment.

In his presentation, Jacobs described the partnership between the National Guard Museum and other Kansas museums, including the Nemaha County Historical Museum.

Col. Jacobs was instrumental in securing showcases for the developing military exhibition in the recently gifted Masonic Temple building. Jacobs concluded his remarks with a presentation of a World War II Army Signal Corps Mine Detector on permanent loan to the Historical Society's Museum.

## Donation Highlights

### Nacke Family Donation:

My mother, Frederica Marie Haug Nacke, born March 24, 1897, was a 1915 graduate of Seneca High School. Although she moved to Hebron, Nebraska after her high school graduation to become an executive secretary for the county attorney and clerk of the district court, she always had Seneca in her heart.

Frederica married Albert J. Nacke of Hebron, Nebraska, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Seneca, Kansas February 18, 1919. Frederica and Albert had seven children. Frederica died in 1997 and is buried in Sacred Heart cemetery, Hebron, Nebraska.

Enclosed is a photo of the former Seneca High School and an announcement for her class graduation in 1915.

From Margaret Nacke CSJ,  
Belleville, KS

Donald and Shirley Smith of Liberty, Missouri visited the museum in May and donated the Purple Heart, military documents and medals, Philippines Flag belonging to his dad, Wilfred "Fats" Smith: 1912-2000

## Historical Society Membership

Annual Membership Fee: \$10

Business Membership: \$20

Lifetime Membership: \$200

More Information: 785-336-6366

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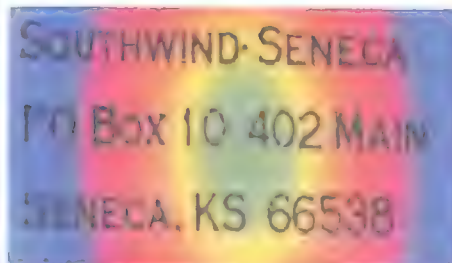
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*William C. O'Keefe*

Attorney at Law

314 Main Street

785-336-3563

[okeefelaw@att.net](mailto:okeefelaw@att.net)

Leslie Droge



## Nemaha County Historical Society

### Thanks the Sponsors

#### of the Third Annual Heritage Days Golf Classic

\$500 from Lola Droge in honor of her late husband, Leslie Droge, born and raised in Nemaha County, attended Kansas State University and served in the Air Force during World War II.

#### Cart Sponsor: \$100 each

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Rogers & Son Electric

Wal-Mart; Marysville & Hiawatha

Honeyman Ford

Dr. David Bowman, DDS

Dr. Jason Showman, DDS

Quilt Basket

Settle Inn

**Casino White Cloud** donated \$50  
Steakhouse Coupon, 2 Weekend  
Golf Coupons to Golf Course &  
Weekend Overnight Stay for two

### Accessed Items

Over 4,041 objects, 1,508 photos, and 3,800 archives have been accessed into the Nemaha County Museum since 2006. Each item has been photographed or scanned into the Past Perfect computer program and bar-coded with a specific number. The Past Perfect program also notes who donated the item and tracks where the item is located in the museum. Seventy-one donors have contributed to the museum during the 2011-12 year.

### Website

The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. desires to bring awareness of the rich heritage preserved in the museum to researchers, tourists, genealogists and the local community and organizations through their website. More than 300 inquiries for research are received each year through the website: [www.nemahacountyhistorical.com](http://www.nemahacountyhistorical.com)

### Hand Dug Well Tours

The Nemaha County Historical Society continues to accept responsibility of guided tours through the city owned hand dug well house in the Seneca City Park. Another 2500 brochures were ordered and will be funded and distributed through the Seneca City Travel and Tourism Committee.

### SHS Alumni Support

Last year, the Seneca Public School Alumni group voted to help Nemaha County Historical Society preserve and better display the SPS archives by building a temperature controlled room in Burger Annex II. The photos, trophies, uniforms, instruments, & artifacts from the Seneca Public School have been located in the school room on the second floor of the old Jail. Alumni found it difficult to climb the stairs but now have easy access for viewing on the ground level. The Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. is appreciative of this interest, and active support.



## Noble Henry Rising

Written By Morris Werner in 2012

Noble Rising, member of the Albany Colony from New York State, came to Nemaha County in 1857 with his son, Don, and was joined a year later by his wife, Mary, and other children, Walter and Mary. Rising stands out as an entrepreneur of unusual talent in a colony noted for men of high cultural achievement and business acumen. He was a surveyor and used his skills to locate business opportunities in the recently surveyed public lands of the county.

Among his many enterprises were three log structures for the Central Overland California & Pikes Peak Express Company at Log Chain, Kickapoo and the Granada Hotel at Pleasant Spring. Kickapoo Station was built on the Kickapoo Indian Reservation in association with Henry Gotteschall with his wife Mary in charge. The Granada Hotel was built with David Locknane as manager, and Rising, himself was resident agent at Log Chain.

Kickapoo Station was built with a fraudulent charter obtained from the Kickapoo Indians and was closed by Maj. Royal Baldwin, Kickapoo agent, after a few week's service. According to Walter, his mother did not present the charter to Maj. Baldwin, knowing that it had been falsely obtained. The Pony Express reverted to the stage coach route through Old Powhatan as shown on J.H. Colton's 1860 map of Missouri & Kansas. Log Chain and Great Hollenberg's Cottonwood Station in Washington County are the only original Pony Express Stations remaining in Kansas.

In 1859 Noble Rising partnered with George Lyons in a store at Sabetha. The same year he built a store at Oak Point on Gregg Creek approximately eight miles north of Pleasant Spring/Granada where Cornelius Gilliam's Oregon bound company crossed in 1844.

The 1877 Atlas of Nemaha County notes N.H. Rising as owner of 80 acres of land at the center of S24 where Orrin "Orange" Gage platted the paper town of Pacific City. Gage built Pacific City Hotel located on the state route one mile north in 1856. Contemporary 7.5" USGS Quads continue to show these property lines, but the north/south road which bisected the section has been closed. Pacific City Hotel was razed in 1902.

*\*Note:* I recall a granddaughter of Dr. Graham who attended Wetmore High School in the 1930s. I would like to hear from descendants of the Risings.

— Morris Werner

200 E. Webster St. Apt. 816, Madison, TN 37115

## Rising Family

Noble Henry "N.H." Rising b NY 1818-75 m Mary Smith b NY 1823-88, children: Don, Walter & Mary Wetmore cem.

Sarah Rising (s/o Noble?) b NY m George Searles 1823-1902, children 1870: Catherine 20, Mary 18, Harriet 19, William 12, Joh 9. Tax: 1500/665 Wetmore cem.

Don C. Rising b NY 1849-1908, PEX rider age 16, m Mary Shoemaker child: Clarence Wetmore cem.

Walter Rising b NY 1851 m Mary 1857-1905 d/o George & Sarah Searles Wetmore cem.

Mary Alma Rising 1859-1924 m Dr. John Wesley "J.W." Graham 1845-1930, children 1870; Robert 18, David 15, Sarah 13

Clarence Rising s/o Don & Mary m Matilda Johnson, Nellie 1 Wetmore cem.

John Searles s/o George & Sarah m Ida Duvall Wetmore cem.

Ora Rising 1881-1982 m Data Robinson 1887-1957 Wetmore cem.

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## *Kansas and Her Pioneers* by Tom McFarland 1870-74 Part Three

*This story in the archives of the NCHS was made available in 1979 through the cooperation of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Armstrong, Havensville, Kansas.*

The Santé Fe suspended work for an indefinite time during the month of May so we engaged with Sam Simmerman to bring us back to America City. We had some fun on the road. One evening we discovered a small haystack. Callon and I told Sam to stop his team and we would get some hay for his horses. He warned us to look out as some person might see us and make us pay dearly, but we payed little heed to his warning but made for the hay. Callon on one side and I on the other, the stack was only about as high as my head, we made a grasp for an armful of hay when, from under the stack came a volley of oath cursing the mules for disturbing the hay. I will never forget the look of astonishment on Callon's face, and I suppose that I had such the same appearance. We were not slow in crawling under the wagon cover while Sam and Ves simply howled like lunatics. The men under the hay had stuck their wagon bows in the ground and covered them with hay, making a very comfortable house. We could now see the mules off quite a distance picking grass. To this day I always take an inventory of a haystack before I get familiar with it.

We camped for the night in north of Topeka. The next day we took a walk around the town of Topeka until noon and then pulled out, camping for the night in the Prairie Band Indian reserve on Little Soldier Creek. The buffalo holes were well supplied with fish so we had fried fish for our meals here. The next morning we drove past Indian burial grounds and stopped to investigate.

The Indians were buried in a sitting posture with the upper part of the body exposed except for a cone shaped vessel made of clay was brought down over them in such a way as to hide them from sight.

There was a small round hole at the bottom of the cone, where they were supposed to receive their food, then the grave was enclosed in a pen made of poles and covered with bark. I removed the bark and hood and discovered a skeleton, smooth and clean. I wanted to take the skull with me but Simmerman objected. About this time we routed out several large bull snakes, whose hissing blowing made our exhibition appear canny and hastened our departure. We had not gone far till several Indians came out of the timber to see what damage we had done to their dead. The prairie was all open and very few houses on the road home.

We reached Simmerman's home where Nate Harris now lives, about dark. While making this drive we came through a new town Osage City. There were only eleven houses in the place and they hauled water for family use from Cherry Creek. There was one well put down about sixty feet, but it gave salty water. The east part of the reserve was occupied by what was called the Prairie Band Indians. They are there yet, while the west part extending west to the Vermillion creek, were Pottawatomie Indians.

We did not tarry very long but engaged with Sam to take us on another drive. The Grand Island was employing men to do grade work in Nemaha and Brown counties, and there we purposed to go. We left America City on May 10, and took a northeast direction. The first settlement we came to was Capioma.

The town had been built with great expectations for the future, but the Grand Island road being put through north of it had taken the wind out of its sails. We continued northeast, striking the grade work

west of Hiawatha, on Walnut creek. Finding no work here, we turned west and drove down the line, passing through Sabetha, a small town full of enthusiasm and rejoicing over the advent of the railroad that was soon to come. Another town Albany, two or three miles northwest had given up the ghost and was moving over to Sabetha.

We continued to follow the road west until we were within seven or eight miles east of Seneca, and then found work with Contractor Davis. After working a few days the work was suspended because of the reason, I was told, that the bond limit had expired. The big chiefs of the road and county held a powwow with no satisfactory results, and as a consequence, the road changed its course, with the purpose of building north of the town. We worked in this direction for several days, until it looked as though Seneca was left out. This brought the county (people) to make another proposition, extending the time limit. The proposition being favorable, the road made another turn southwest for Seneca, only to get in too late, and lose the bonds, thus giving Nemaha County two roads and no bond debt. I thought then, and think now that the pioneers were not lunas, by a long shot. They always had an eye open for business and it was the other fellow that got left.

By walking up on the hill we could have a birds eye view of Seneca and surrounding county. The town has a fine location, but now the principal attraction is the sawmill, while the rest of the town was scattered about and looked rather shabby.

.....Final Installment



## New Nemaha County Book for Sale at Museum

In the fall of 2011, we published a book written by Hulda Vahsholtz Friedrich, who was born and raised on the north edge of Nemaha County in the late 1800s. In about 1937 when she was 63 years old, her daughter gave her a journal in which Hulda wrote stories of growing up. Her memory was incredible, filling 300 hand-written pages. She filled that journal by the time her memories had brought her to age 13. We don't know if she ever wrote more of her life story. Last year we published her book, pretty much as written--little editing required--though we did add numerous illustrations. Hulda was an ancestral member of my family, and we published this book primarily for our clan. You can learn more about it by visiting the Vahsholtz website,

I believe this book would be of interest to historians from your area as well as those doing family research. Because Hulda was--shall we say "frank"--in her descriptions of many neighbors, we've assigned fictitious names to all but her relatives. Those seeking genealogical data generally understand and expect skeletons to tumble out of closets, so we have a code identifying who is who for the serious researcher who might want to contact us. To help defray printing costs, we'd like to offer the book for sale in your county, perhaps through your organization, a book store, the newspaper or some appropriate agency. The seller would get a 40% discount from retail. I'll send you a sample copy if you wish. We'll be making a trip through the Midwest this August and could deliver some inventory copies--perhaps even attend a promotional book-signing or something of the like if you wish.

Regards, Bob  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

## 2011-2012 Financial Report

### Income and Spending

7/1/2011 Through 7/1/2012

#### INCOME CATEGORIES

#### EXPENSE CATEGORIES

Contributions	\$23,425.49	Administrative	\$642.92
Dues	\$1,065.00	Contract Labor	3,699.50
Fundraisers	\$17,635.29	Fundraisers	7,538.55
Grants	\$1,376.00	Events-Education	1,320.20
Investments	\$817.68	Insurance	2,811.00
Memorials	\$850.00	Facilities	15,976.12
Other Income	\$1,306.62	Utilities, Taxes	1,583.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,476.08</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,571.63</b>



## Bancroft Preservation Association

By Freda Dobbins

The Bancroft Preservation Association cares for the Bancroft Depot Museum area and the 100+ year old Church across from the Depot. The Bancroft Depot Museum opened in 1995 after several years of work by many volunteers and donations by many others. The Depot was moved back to Bancroft and renovated as near as possible to its original design. The history of the Depot is at <http://www.skyways.org/museums/bancroft/Railroad/Bancroft.html>

The Depot houses not only railroad historical items, but also items from the community of Bancroft, from the Bancroft School and from life at the time the Depot was in use. There are especially many items related to the Kansas City Wyandotte Northwestern Railroad, on which the Depot was used.

During the last year, the Bancroft Preservation Association sponsored its annual picnic on the 4th Sunday in June, June 26, 2011. Those in attendance enjoyed the music provided by Gary Bell and friends. The Association had the annual re-opening of the Museum on Memorial Day Weekend, with special program and refreshments on May 27, 2012. Each Sunday of June through September will find the Museum open from 2-4 pm.

The Association's picnic took place on June 24, 2012 with the Association providing the table service, hot dogs & buns, ice cream and drinks. Everyone was encouraged to bring a chair to sit for an evening in the shade serenaded by music from those supporting the museum with their musical talents. Also, there was a historical talk by Jim Dobbins.

The Bancroft Preservation Association has only donations and gifts to help it continue to keep the Bancroft Depot Museum in operation. Donations may be sent through the Nemaha County Historical Society or to Mary Leighty, 111006 W. 163<sup>rd</sup> Terr, Overland Park, KS 66062.

The Association is looking forward to another year of helping preserve the history of the SE part of Nemaha County.

  
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**Klapp Family Inquiry:**

I am looking for two brother's Johann Klapp (on census records some times was spelled Kapp) and his brother Andrew.

Johann Klapp was born 5 Jan 1849 died is what I'm looking for. (died after 1920). Andreas 'Andrew' Klapp b. July 15, 1853 died after 1920 married 1st wife Barbara Pfrang Martin she died 1910 buried in St. Peter and Paul's cemetery. married 2nd to a Mary ?? born about 1854

Andy Chiello, Madison, WI 53704

**Editor's Note: Anything on these people would be great.**

**Hale Family Inquiry:**

Hoping for help with family records. James Addison Young of Oskaloosa IA settled near Seneca and one of his sons - William Edwin Young married Virginia Catherine Hale (Jennie). Jennie's father was Cornelius Hale who had come to the county from MO with his wife. Who was Cornelius' father?

**Donation**

A painting of Geneva Dennis was recently donated to the Museum by Mary Bourkas, Midway, AK.

Geneva was the daughter of Sheriff /Mayor William Dennis and ancestor of Ms. Bourkas. Geneva died of TB at 22 years and is buried in the Dennis Cemetery. The painting now hangs in the Seneca Room of the Museum.

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**THANKS**

The Nemaha County Historical Society thanks the sponsors of the Tractor Cruise Benefit held on July 28, 2012 to keep the museum open and fund the exhibit

which will honor the Service of our Nemaha County warriors by preserving their military artifacts.

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## NEMAHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.



# Pioneer Press

Volume 30, Issue 1

November, December, January 2012

### Gather round, historians, and I'll tell you a ghost story.

First, I want to put you in the setting, which is the least ghostly place you can imagine. In the middle of Seneca, on the 100 block of North 6th, sits a tall-regal, crisp-red brick building former Nemaha County Jail and Sheriff's Residence, now serves as the Nemaha County Historical Museum.

The building built in 1879 maintains a high degree of interior and exterior "Italianate" style architectural integrity and has the unique status as one of the oldest sheriff's residence and jails standing in Kansas today. The brick, two-story structure rests on a foundation of limestone blocks, laid in mortar and a natural bed of sand. Renovated in 1907, the commissioners wanted to update by adding a porch, a tower and a second floor jail.

Bought at auction in 1975, the building is owned today by the Nemaha County Historical Society and is connected with a modern brick Burger Annex addition which serves as the welcoming center with office and a meeting room. Volunteers find the workspace beckons workers to be creative with collections and displays. Inside, in the twenty room building are over 15,000 artifacts and archives preserved for future generations.

You wouldn't expect a ghost here. But you would be wrong, says a visiting painter, a local college boy who volunteered to scrap and paint the school room on the second floor of the Jail this past summer.

Painters often work late, especially in the heat of the July days, and it's not unusual to be the last person in the building. "When it quiets down, the building changes character a little bit," says Joel, our college volunteer. He and his co-workers - and folks in the buildings nearby - have heard odd noises: banging's, clanging, rattling's, doors slamming, winds howling. Sometimes doors open heavily, as if someone is pushing from the other side. Books have flown off shelves. Chairs move. A figure has been glimpsed out of the corner of an eye. According to a tale told in the coffee shops (which I'm sure is totally 100 percent reliable), a young woman once saw a shadowy male figure in the back seat of her car and the words "Tell her I'm sorry" written on her windshield.

Nemaha County Historical Society, Inc. brought in some ghost hunters one night, and when the several names for the ghost were called in the dark basement, a loud bang sounded from a pipe.

Yes, that's right. They believe they know the ghost's name. And here is his story, as best I can piece it together from newspaper accounts in the February 27, 1908 Seneca Tribune and the April 23, 1908 Courier-Democrat, online research, and several books on the subject. (cont. on page 5)

### Funds Received



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### 2012- 2013 Schedule

Nov. 13, 2012-Board Meeting  
Feb. 12, 2013 Board Meeting  
May 14, 2013 Board Meeting  
June 1, 2013 Golf Classic  
Fundraiser  
June 11, 2013 Annual Meeting



### Old Jail Research

The Nemaha County Historical Museum has been contacted by a researcher who is the head of the criminal justice department at the WU campus who has taken academic sabbatical until JANUARY 2, 2013 to do a paper on old jails.

He has Ralph Tennal book and the information that we dug out for placing the building on the Registry of National Historic places, but he wants jail stories of interest. We have found the story of the trial of the **Lalley** who shot Herbert S. Jordan on main street (Feb. 27, 1908) and later burned to death in the jail cell (CD April 23, 1908).

The researcher has asked about some of the escapes from our jail, but we don't find those stories in our files at the museum. We do have "wanted" posters on the escapees from our jail, but not the stories. Do you have such information in your files and will you share with us? If so, contact the museum by phone or email.

Thanks!

### Cimarron Kansas Letter

Sabrina Hibbs writes to the Nemaha County Historical Society that she is studying Kansas history this year at school and is helping make a scrapbook. She would appreciate any information about our area that she could use. Please send to:

Sabrina Hibbs, PO Box 64,  
Cimarron, KS 67835

### The Poor & Needy

The Nemaha County Historical Museum and the Pony Express Museum were not open for the 36th Annual Heritage Days event as both have the same constraints of limited numbers of volunteers and low cash balance for event insurance. Event insurance is necessary for any activities beyond the normal museum tours. Vendors and artisans were turned away. Speakers, rein actors and traveling historical exhibits were cancelled.

Both museums began to pay the City of Seneca utility fees in October 15th on the historical buildings that house the Northeast Kansas artifacts. There is thick walls, but no insulation in either building. NCHS been paying for utilities in the Temple for two years, but the additional utility expense for the Jail and both Annexes began in October. Request for exemption for the Temple of Honor to the City of Seneca was rejected in November 2011 and the 37 year utility exemption on the historic buildings was withdrawn.

NCHS annual fundraising efforts were fruitful with profits of \$6,000 at the 3rd Annual Golf Classic, \$1,085 at the 3rd Annual Tractor Cruise, \$634 from the Car Show Concessions, \$1000 from the Hwy. 36 Treasure Hunt garage sale and \$719 from internet sales. A check of \$166.00 from the County Treasurer was also received this quarter. These fundraising events and contributions will go a long way towards preserving Nemaha County history, keeping the (depository) museum open and continuing development of the military exhibition.

### Llewellyn Castle

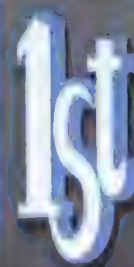
Dr. Gary R. Entz, Nicolet College, Rhineland, Wisconsin informs us that he has completed the book he wrote about Llewellyn Castle, the English colony that was located in Harrison Township in the early 1870's. The book will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2013.

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### Estimates Sought for Temple of Honor Restoration Budget

The Nemaha County Historical Society is pursuing estimates for restoring the original roof on the Temple of Honor building in order to list it on the National Historic Registry as a part of the Seneca Downtown Historic District. The property is currently in the district, but the building is considered noncontributing because the roof was changed. This new status will qualify the building for grants that could give assistance for a structural study, preservation of the stained glass windows and restoration of the historic building. To meet immediate needs and still develop a budget and preservation plan, NCHS has spent \$12,556.61 for the foundation stabilization project and \$2,236.72 for phase one of the electrical project while the estimated cost for phase one of the plumbing project is \$3,464.00.







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**Contact Me!**

**BBC Visits Museum**

**BBC News producer Lewis James and Washington correspondent Jonny Dymond were in the area studying agriculture and had an appointment with Wempes south of town to see his farm and had time to waste so came to the museum. One fellow had 5 pages of notes by time he was done with a very quick run thru of museum.**

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## News from Neighboring Historical Societies

### **Brown County Historical Society**

BCHS's Heritage Days, held at the Ag Museum and the Maple Leaf Festive in downtown Hiawatha was held on October 6th. Due to remodeling work in the Memorial Auditorium the Museum in downtown Hiawatha was closed. Summer fest is over and was successful for 2012, but the board members agreed that this is the last year for Brown County Historical Society members to participate in Summer fest.

### **Geary County Historical Society**

Curator Georganne White of the Junction City museum offered and then mailed archives which formerly belonged to Lucille and Lester Bailey of Sabetha. These musical scores and programs are welcome additions to Nemaha County Historical Museum's Sabetha Collection.

### **Marshall County Historical Society**

Three honorees received the Marshall County Historical Society's new 100 year business plaques this year: Citizens State Bank & Trust Company for Bremen State Bank (1907); Bremen Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. for Friendly Fire Society (1878) and the Bremen Farmer's Coop (1886) now owned by Southeast Nebraska Coop.

### **Bancroft Railroad Museum**

The Bancroft Preservation Association is now ordering memorial bricks for \$35.00 each for 2 lines, 14 characters or spaces per line. The Association had the annual re-opening of the Museum on Memorial Day Weekend and closed after labor Day weekend. The Association helps preserve the history of the SE part of Nemaha County in the Railroad Depot Museum.

### **Jackson County Historical Society**

Barn Tours were provided of the area on September 29 and October 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. They departed from the courthouse on the Holton square and were guided on school bus through rough scenic areas of eastern Jackson county, touching Atchison and Jefferson counties. \$40 tickets included lunch.



### **Winter Schedule**

The Nemaha County Historical Museum will be open 10:00 to 4:00 on Wednesdays through April 2013.



**President Anita Heiman sorts donations for the September two day Hwy. 36 Treasure Hunt fundraiser.**

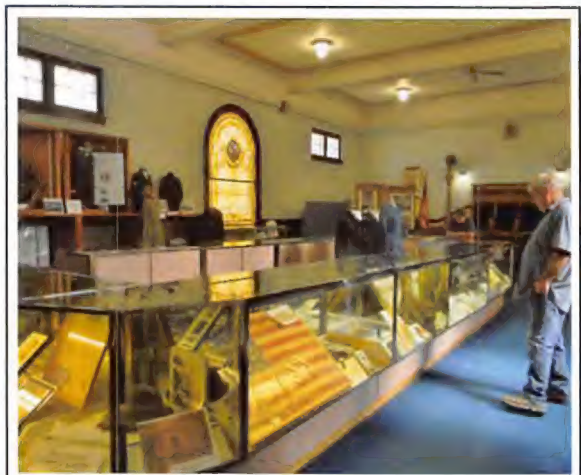
### **Pawnee City Historical Society**

Our members attended the Civil War Reenactment and Festival Activities in Pawnee City, NE on September 22-23rd. All day demonstrations included quilling, marble making, rug weaving, candle wicking, corn tank, duck plop bingo, old time games, embroidery, and petting zoo.

## 36th Annual Nemaha County Heritage Day Open House

Leland Chilson is shown (right) at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Nemaha County Heritage Day Sneak-A-Peek at the Temple of Honor at 33 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Approximately 1/5 of the Nemaha County Historical Society's developing Military Collection was on display in glass showcases and around the main room in a time-line from Civil War to the Afghanistan War with emphasis on Veterans of Nemaha County.

The story board planning committee will continue to develop a story line for the grand opening exhibits currently scheduled for October, 2013.





**Picture a cold, windy evening in Seneca on February 14, 1908 when Ira K. Wells was on Main Street between the hours of 6 and 7 o'clock. While unlocking the lower door to the stairway leading up to his office, he heard a pistol shot. Messrs. Jones and Thompson were leaning against the bank building just east of him, and he said to Thompson, "What was that?" "Fireworks, maybe", was the answer.**

As their eyes became more accustomed to the darkness they saw a form of a man lying on the sidewalk across the street. Wells then went up the stairs and phoned for Sheriff Dennis and it was only five minutes until he was there.

Henry Routh, a young man 22 years old who works for his father in the Routh's shoe store, immediately went out on the street thinking a window light had been broken. He was the first one to reach the body, and his father, Thomas Routh, was next. Henry Routh immediately ran up the street to summon Dr. Snyder.

Thomas Burberry was in Carey's restaurant and heard the shot. He was attracted by the barbers across the street who were looking out of their window, and went to see what was the matter. He passed two women who told him that there was a man lying on the sidewalk. He ran down there and lit a match, but when he saw who it was, said: "For God's sake, it is Herb Jordan". He saw no signs of life in the body, but noticed a toothpick in his mouth.

Charles Gaston, a lad of thirteen, who lives in the country and was in Seneca on that evening to attend a party, was coming up town from Mason's and walking backwards as the wind was rather cold. He was in front of Hattie Wright's old millinery store when he heard the shot and turned around just in time to see Herbert Jordon fall on his face on the sidewalk, and then a man came running past him. The man had cap pulled down and his head crouched down in his overcoat. Charles thought the man went to a dark colored horse next to William's hardware.

The subject of James Lally being of suspicion was discussed almost immediately after the shooting. Something about a land deal and how it might be the reason for the shooting especially on account of the description given of a dark colored horse. Lally had such a horse.

Later James Lally was interviewed by the sheriff but he said he did not know Jordan, that his mother and brothers made the land deal and there was not dissatisfaction that he knew of. He said there was some difficulty over the abstracts but he did not know just what it was. James said he was in Corning on horseback the day of the shooting and gave details as to which stores he entered and what items he purchased.

But, alas, James Lally who was arrested, was being held in the Nemaha County Jail awaiting his trial for the murder of Herbert Jordon which was to begin on Monday, April 27, 1908, was burned to death in the jail between five and six o'clock on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. He was the only occupant of the jail and when others reached his side he was so far gone as to be barely able to utter a few words.

His death unfortunately served to intensify differences of opinion that already existed over this case, and created considerable bitterness and led to the circulation of many stories that were maliciously false. It was this regrettable situation that led to a coroner's inquest in order to make a matter of public record such facts as were known. The story of the death of Lally's is best told in the some of the testimony at the inquest.

Sheriff William Dennis, C. H. Herald and Doctor Hays, Dr. Snyder and one of Lally's attorneys Charlie Herold spoke. Dr. Hayes said that Lally was alive and lying in the sheriff's office when he arrived and gave him a hypodermic of morphine. Attorney Herold arrived and spoke to him and called him, "Jimmie". He responded to Mr. Herold by saying, "Charlie". Mr. Herold got down on his knees and asked, "Jim, how did this happen?" He said, "I went to light the coal oil stove and it caught on fire." Mr. Dennis asked, "how did you come to build a fire at that time, it is daylight?" He said, "Go and get the priest." Nothing said about the coal oil on the bed. There was no explanation for the bad burns on his hands, face and legs.

A heartbroken town still talks about the boy James Lally and wonders if he wanders the jail, especially this time of year, seeking forgiveness from community leaders who are now dead and forever unable to grant him peace.

It's said that if you say, "We are sorry for your pain" to the ghost, he will go away for a time.

You may be a skeptic, as am I.

But it's a good story, if ineffably sad. The winter months are cold in the old jail. There is no heat to warm the heart or the soul, but some nights you might see the ghost of Jimmie Lally or the image of a woman through the second-story windows of the jail. The woman appears to walk slowly past, and then turns to face the street and gradually fades away. But the woman ghost is another story..... for another day.



**Nemaha County Historical  
Museum**

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**Nemaha County Historical Society  
2012-2013 Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Individual-Historical Society membership (H) \$10.00

☐ Individual-Lifetime Historical Society membership (Life) \$200.00

☐ Business (Corporate) Historical Society membership \$20.00

☐ Contribution-Memorial or Recognition of \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Jail Window s Fund: Costs up to \$1,000 per window; amount given -

☐ Military Exhibition Fund

☐ Utilities Fund: Costs up to \$250 per month; amount given -

Number of Memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Nemaha County Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.*

**Send to: Nemaha County Historical Society, PO Box 41, Seneca, Kansas 66538**